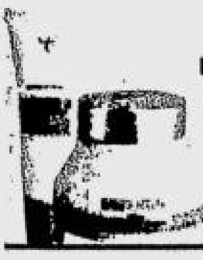


**■ Lifestyle / C1**
Leading dermatologist says skin needs to bleed in order to heal

**■ News / A2**
Esperat identifies her killers in letter she left behind

**■ Across / A19**
Cop who died in Bicutan jail siege buried a hero in Ilocos Sur

**■ World / A10**
Rescuers work through 700 aftershocks in Nias, Indonesia

## PDI Reader's Advocate named SEC commissioner

PALABRICA

**By Elizabeth L. Sanchez**

MALACAÑANG has appointed INQUIRER's Reader's Advocate Raul Palabrica as the fourth of the five commissioners at the Securities and Exchange Commission

PDI/ A21

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, April 1, 2005 ★★★ 80 pages 10 sections Vol. 20 No. 112 P18

## 'Lipo' fat can be used to sex up private parts

**By Maricar D. Tolosa**
*PDI Research*

PWEDE KA NA PALANG IGISA SA SARILI MONG MANTIKA!

WHAT happens to the fat extracted from people who undergo a liposuction? Are these used as skin

LIPO/ A8

ERIK ARAZAS

**BY LAND AND SEA,** the Philippine National Police intensifies security measures for the 1,500 foreign delegates to the 112th Inter-Parliamentary Union general assembly. A police maritime unit patrols (right) the bay area around the Philippine International Convention Center, the venue of the six-day meeting starting April 3. The Coast Guard is on full alert around hotels fronting Manila Bay where most of the delegates are billeted.

# Now, it's Noli vs Loren

## SC hopes to finish recount this year

**By Armand Nocum**

**HAVING "denied with finality" the motion for reconsideration filed by Vice President Noli de Castro, the Supreme Court hopes to complete within the year the process of checking and deliberating on the alleged election irregularities claimed by Loren Legarda, running mate of the late opposition standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr.**

Earlier voting 14-0 (with one justice on leave), the high court sitting as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET) declared Legarda's election protest "sufficient in form and substantively serious enough on its face to pose a challenge to [De Castro's] title to his office."

"In our view, the instant protest consists of alleged ultimate facts, not mere conclusions of law, that need to be proven in due time," the PET said in a resolution yesterday.

Ismael Khan, the high court's public information chief and assistant administrator, said the outcome of Legarda's election protest would depend much on the ballots and election documents she would present from six key provinces.

"The PET will find out if there is actual basis in the protest based on the samples that Legarda will provide. If the PET finds actual basis, it will proceed. If not, [a dismissal is] possible," Khan told reporters.

De Castro said he was confident that the PET would soon uphold his victory in the May 2004 elections.

He said that while the PET had found Legarda's election protest sufficient in form and substance, her allegations against him had yet to be proven.

"The true voice of the people will be confirmed," he said.

But Legarda, a former senator, was equally confident.

She pointed out that the PET had decided to proceed with her case against De Castro, and that it had ordered Congress to safe-

NOW/ A21

BI/PNP/AFP
DETAINEE

MALACAÑANG PHOTO

**"A GOOD CATCH," President Arroyo says of Fawaz Zi Ajjur, a suspected international terrorist presented to her by Chief Supt. Vidal Querol and Southcom chief Lt. Gen. Alberto Braganza in Zamboanga City on Thursday. A Kuwaiti national who reportedly carries a Palestinian passport, Ajjur was arrested on March 26 at the Zamboanga International Airport by combined police, military and immigration operatives.**

## GMA willing to pay political cost

SHRUGGING off her plunging approval rating, President Macapagal-Arroyo said she was willing "to pay the political capital" to implement tough fiscal reforms such as raising taxes.

"That is part of the political (cost) that must be made," the President told reporters yesterday in Marawi City.

Results of a nationwide survey conducted by Pulse Asia Inc. last month showed that the President's approval rating had plummeted to 38 percent, the lowest in her more than four years in power.

The decline was due to her per-

GMA WILLING/ A8

## 15,000 cops dedicated to secure IPU meeting

**By Luige A. del Puerto**

THE PHILIPPINE National Police yesterday said it was fully prepared for the 112th Inter-Parliamentary Union assembly set to open in Manila on Sunday, with the 15,000-strong force of the National Capital Region Police Office dedicated to ensuring security.

"We have had several rehearsals. We have reviewed the implementation of plans. *Reding-ready na kami,*" PNP Deputy Director General Avelino Razon announced.

Razon said the PNP had activated an operation center for the gathering of about 1,500 foreign lawmakers at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City, to which crack troops of policemen, soldiers and even Coast Guard personnel would be deployed.

15,000/ A20

## With VAT on menu, Palace wines, dines some solons

**By Juliet Labog-Javellana**

DESPITE the claim of a presidential adviser that President Macapagal-Arroyo did not need to woo allies in the Senate to pass the value-added tax (VAT) measure, Ms Arroyo had actually invited some senators to dinner.

Miriam Defensor-Santiago admitted to having been invited to dinner by the President before Holy Week.

Asked if VAT was on the menu, Santiago said "Yes!" The senator said Ms Arroyo explained to her the necessity of passing the VAT and passing it "promptly."

Santiago said one could tell the importance of a measure by the number of times lawmakers are invited to presidential dinners.

"So this is at least a one-dinner bill. Others were zero-dinner bills, meaning to say the authors, sponsors just had to fend for themselves," Santiago said.

The wining-and-dining came to light as senators struggled to beat the deadline for the passage of the VAT reform measure by today, the last day of the three-day special session the President called to approve her major tax bill.

Senate President Franklin Drilon and Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan predicted that the Senate would deliver its VAT version today and that it

WITH VAT/ A8

## Honesty normal thing to do for 2 Naia janitors

**By Nikko Dizon**

TWO MAINTENANCE workers at the country's premier airports are receiving praises for doing what, to them, was the normal thing to do: Be honest.

The two, a janitor at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and a janitress at the Manila Domestic Airport, returned valuables that could have made them a few hundred thousand pesos richer.

On Tuesday, airline janitor Romeo Pelaez was on duty cleaning an aircraft of Japan Airlines (JAL) when he found a bag which turned out to contain 3 million yen, or P1.5 million, a cellular phone and documents.

The bag was owned by a Japanese national and his Fil-

HONESTY/ A21

**PLUGGED**

## Pope's 'living will' wants life support to the end

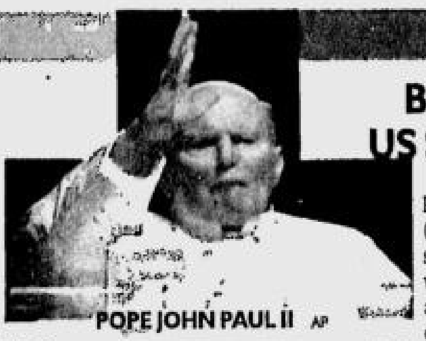
PARIS—Pope John Paul, now being fed through a nasal tube because of his throat problems, effectively wrote his own "living will" last year in a speech declaring some life-extending treatments a moral duty for Roman Catholics.

The ailing Pontiff sharply narrowed Catholic guidelines for treating patients nearing death in March 2004 when he described tube-feeding as a normal treatment rather than an extraordinary measure that can be stopped if all hope of recovery fades.

This indicates he would want to be kept alive by artificial means even if he falls into a coma or a persistent vegetative state, such as the brain-damaged Terri Schiavo in the United States whose feeding tube has been removed after 15 years.

"The Pope's statement would have to be considered the equivalent of his living will," said Father

POPE'S/ A20



POPE JOHN PAUL II AP

TERRI SCHIAVO AP

**UNPLUGGED**

## Brain-damaged Terry Shiavo dies as US Supreme Court rejects parents' plea

PINELLAS PARK, Florida (AP) — Terri Schiavo, the severely brain-damaged woman whose 15 years on a feeding tube sparked an epic legal battle that went all the way to the White House and Congress, died Thursday, 13 days after the tube was removed. She was 41.

Schiavo died at the Pinellas Park hospice where she lay for years while her husband and her parents fought over whether to keep her alive or not.

Her death was confirmed to The Associated Press by George Felos, the attorney for her husband Michael Schiavo, and announced to reporters outside her hospice by a family adviser.

Brother Paul O'Donnell, an adviser to Schiavo's parents, Bob and Mary Schindler, said the parents and their two other children "were denied access at the moment of her death. They've been requesting, as you know, for the last hour to try to be in there and

BRAIN-DAMAGED/ A20

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**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers while Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/04/01/05 SOURCE PAGASA

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Partly Cloudy | Iloilo/Bacolod | Partly Cloudy |
| Baguio | Partly Cloudy | Roxas | Partly Cloudy |
| Tuguegarao | Partly Cloudy | Cebu | Partly Cloudy |
| Laoag | Cloudy with Rains | Tacloban | Partly Cloudy |
| Clark Zone | Partly Cloudy | Gen. Santos | Cloudy with Rains |
| Tagaytay | Partly Cloudy | Zamboanga | Cloudy with Rains |
| Legazpi | Partly Cloudy | Cagayan de Oro | Cloudy with Rains |
| Calapan | Partly Cloudy | Davao | Cloudy with Rains |

# Esperat knew her killers

By Armand N. Nocum

**EVER the meticulous journalist, slain columnist Marlene Esperat had made sure to leave behind in a letter the identity of the persons who wanted her dead and even how much her killer was paid to do the job.**

In an interview with the INQUIRER somewhere in Manila yesterday, a relative of Esperat said that apart from drafting the letter, the journalist—who was killed in General Santos City last week—had been telling close family and friends about her killer two weeks before her assassination.

"One day, she went to me and announced that a killer had already been hired to finish her off," said the relative, who asked not to be named for fear of her safety.

According to the relative, she advised Esperat, 45, to lie low and stop hitting the respondents in the 15 cases she had filed against numerous national and local officials in the last 10 years.

"*Pahinga ka* (Take a rest), you're too young to die," the relative said she told Esperat.

The relative refused, however, to show the letter to this reporter.

"I will just tell you when they finally get the real culprit," the relative said, adding that she believed the contents of the letter because Esperat was known to have contacts and allies within the intelligence community.

The relative said she believed Esperat was killed to "silence her" and stop her from pursuing the cases she had filed in the Office of the Ombudsman. She said Esperat had done a very good job of gathering evidence that could stand in court even if she was dead.

"Three weeks before she died, she went to see (Overall Deputy Ombudsman Margarito) Gervacio and (Assistant Ombudsman Ernesto) Nocos to follow up on the cases related to alleged irregularities at the (Department of Agriculture)," the relative said.

The investigation into the murder of Esperat will include "everything" and "everyone," and would not be limited to her enemies in Central Mindanao, Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao vowed yesterday.

At the same time, Lomibao sacked Supt. Willie Dangane, the police chief of General Santos City, who has been linked to Esperat's killing.

"My instructions to Task Force (Esperat) were not to leave any stone unturned, which means all angles, all motives, all matters pertaining to the killing will be investigated," Lomibao said.

Lomibao was responding to an INQUIRER report that had said Esperat's relatives wanted the scope of the investigation widened to include national government officials.

Lomibao said that even before Esperat was killed in her home on Maundy Thursday, Dangane was already set to be removed from office.

This was because Dangane, a police superintendent, was short of the required rank to be a city police chief, which is a senior superintendent, Lomibao said.

In an earlier interview, Dangane denied he had anything to do with Esperat's killing.

"I'm not bothered by the statement of a certain George Esperat implicating [me] in the killing of his wife," he said. "The late Marlene Esperat and I were not enemies. Maybe it is her husband who should be investigated."

Esperat had filed a case of obstruction of justice against Dangane when the latter was Tacurong City police chief. The case is pending with the Ombudsman in Mindanao.

Also in General Santos City, Sultan Kudarat Gov. Pax Mangudadatu offered a P200,000 reward to anybody who could provide information that would help solve the killing of Esperat.

"*Nakakasira ng* image *ng lugar ko ang pangyayari. Dalawang babaeng* journalists *na ang pinatay dito. Kailangang mabigyan ng hustisya ang mga biktima* (The killings are ruining my province's image. Two women journalists have been killed here. They must be given justice.)," Mangudadatu told the INQUIRER.

Late last year, Amy Corpuz, a former reporter of a Koronadal City-based radio station was shot and killed by a gunman who was never caught. Corpuz had just entered politics and was no longer a working journalist at the time of her death. ***With Luige A. del Puerto in Manila, and Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

# It's final: Gov't to lose 1 of 5 SMC board seats

By Doris C. Dumlao, Elizabeth Sanchez and Alcuin Papa

THE GOVERNMENT abandoned a last-ditch attempt to fully preserve its 41 percent stake in San Miguel Corp. as the food and beverage giant's stock rights offer lapsed yesterday.

According to industry sources, the government, at the last minute, considered tapping into the two state-run pension funds to cover the additional P2.4 billion needed for the Presidential Commission on Good Government to keep its 27 percent stake in SMC from being diluted.

At the end of the stock offer yesterday, the PCGG was able to come up with only P2.1 billion for a partial subscription, said PCGG Commissioner Haydee Yorac.

As a result, the government now has four seats, from the previous five, although the PCGG said this was not because of any dilution of its shares.

Officials of the Social Security System and Government Service Insurance System, in separate interviews yesterday, said they would shell out money only to pay for their own shares and not to fund any additional subscription on behalf of government.

Another banking source said the government did not pursue any more an arrangement with the state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines which earlier offered to fund whatever was needed to maintain the government's stake at SMC.

A GSIS official said the pension fund would subscribe to additional shares of SMC up to the number of shares it was allocated to keep its 6.29 percent stake.

The GSIS and SSS own a combined 14 percent stake in the food and beverage giant on top of the 27 percent held by the PCGG.

GSIS itself paid only P900 million to keep its stake but it has other affiliates, such as its provident fund, which own additional shares.

SSS president Cora de la Paz said "we only paid for our shares."

"We're buying shares we believe we need to ensure us a seat and optimize value of present holdings. I am not privy to what other (government) agencies did. No one came to us to borrow funds for the SMC shares," De la Paz said.

A scheme was considered to let the SSS and GSIS take up the shares that the PCGG could not afford to pay.

The PCGG needed P4.5 billion to keep the 27 percent stake in SMC and was able only P2.1 billion using cash dividends from the Coconut Industry Investment Fund.

Officials said the partial subscription was enough. According to PCGG commissioner Vyva Aguirre, as long as the government holds more than 33 percent of SMC shares, it could still exercise veto powers.

# Isafp tags media groups as 'enemies'

By Norman Bordadora

MILITARY intelligence has tagged a couple of journalist groups as among the enemies of the state in a video being shown in the countryside in an attempt to win over the rural folk, an official of one of the groups said yesterday.

Inday Espina-Varona, chair of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, told a public forum on government repression that "just (this Wednesday), we got hold of a compact disc by the Isafp (Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines). There was a part there titled 'Know Your Enemies.'"

"Named in that part of the video were the NUJP and the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism," Varona said.

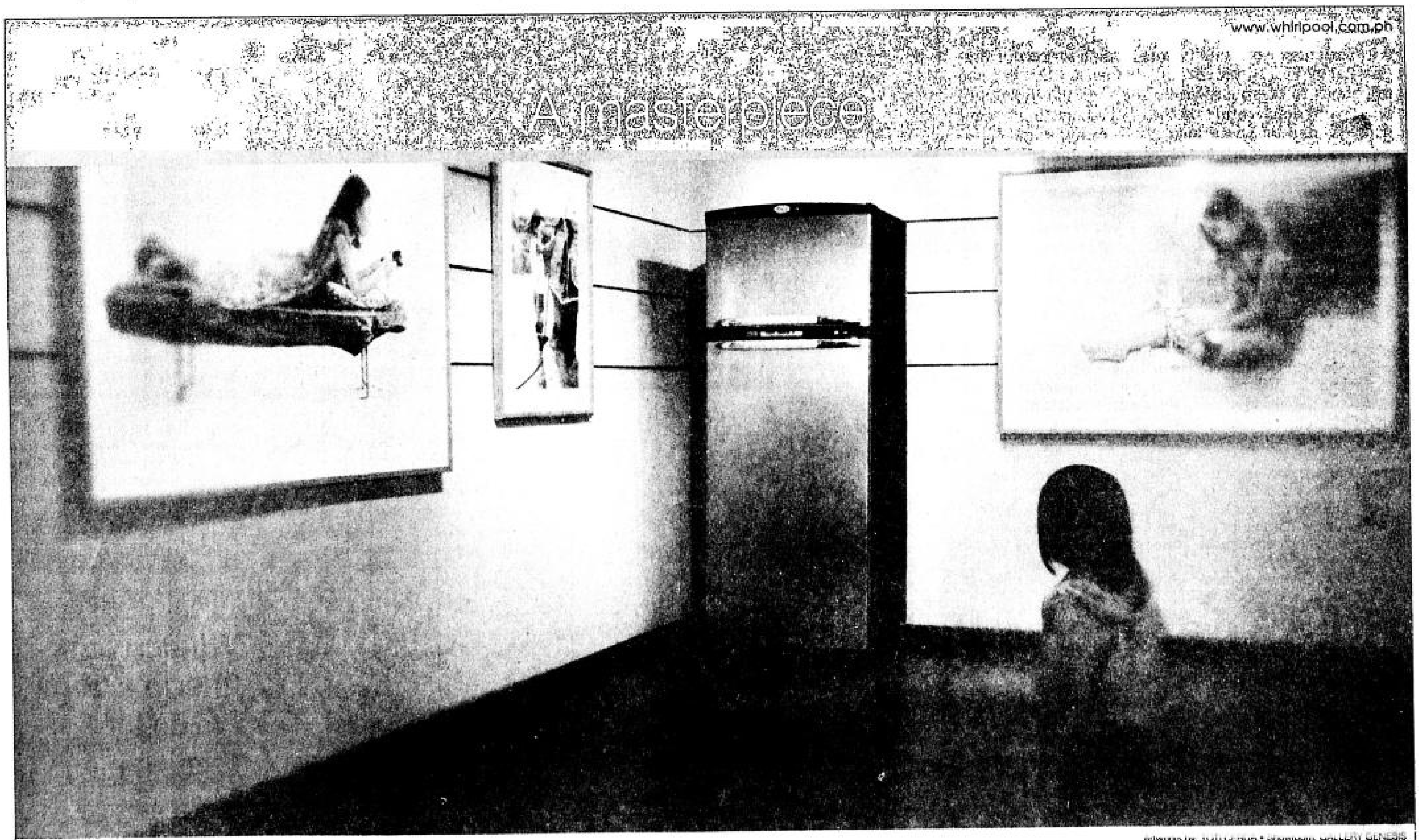
The revelation comes at a time the Philippines has been tagged the worst place to be a practicing journalist outside of war-torn Iraq.

News of the anti-journalist video also followed the military hierarchy's recent threatening of journalists with lawsuits if they interviewed personalities considered by the government to be terrorists.

"The NUJP is, well, considered as critical of the government. The PCIJ was included, perhaps, because of the stories it has been coming out with—stories that are also perceived to be critical of the government," Varona told the INQUIRER on the sidelines of the forum.

Varona said the NUJP was planning to write both houses of Congress to request an investigation into the alleged military video.

"We've been told the video is being shown to communities in the countryside. You know, it's a battle for the hearts and minds of the people," she said.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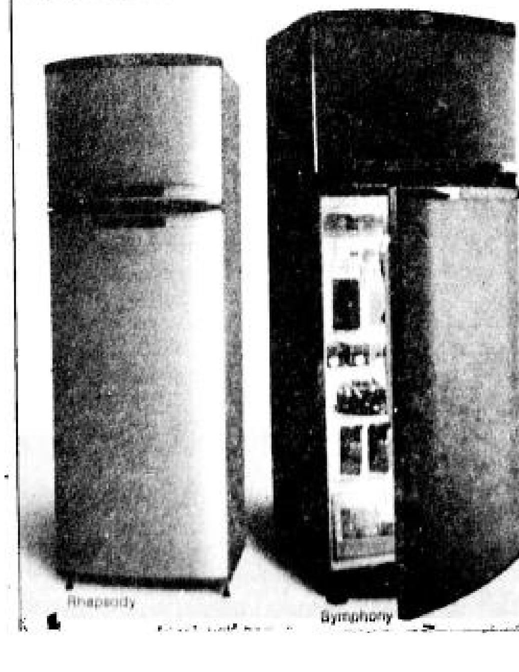

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  March 18 to April 10, 2005
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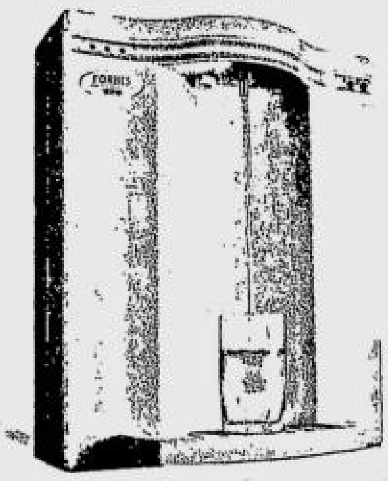

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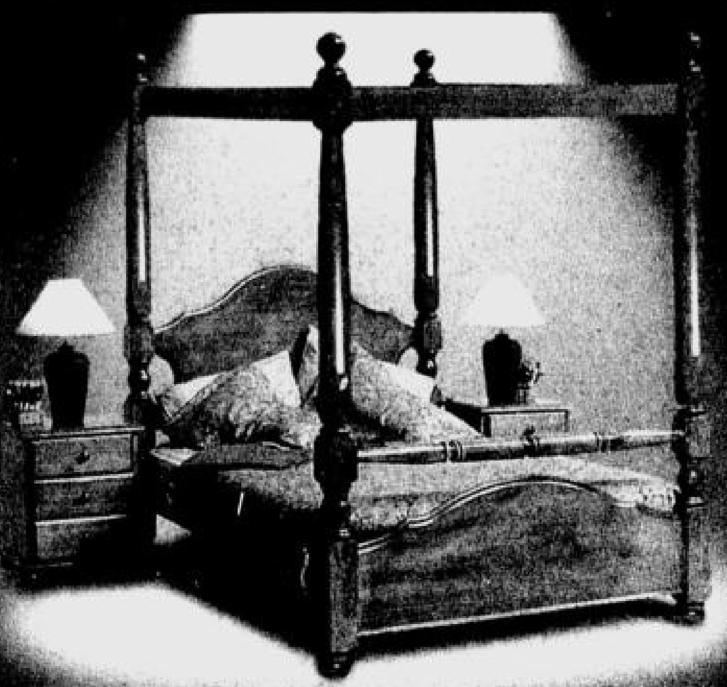

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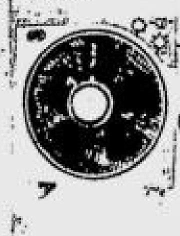

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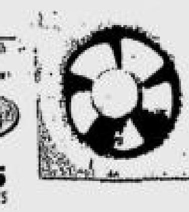

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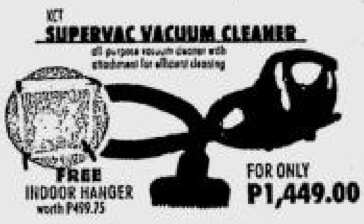

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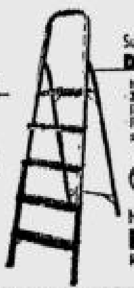

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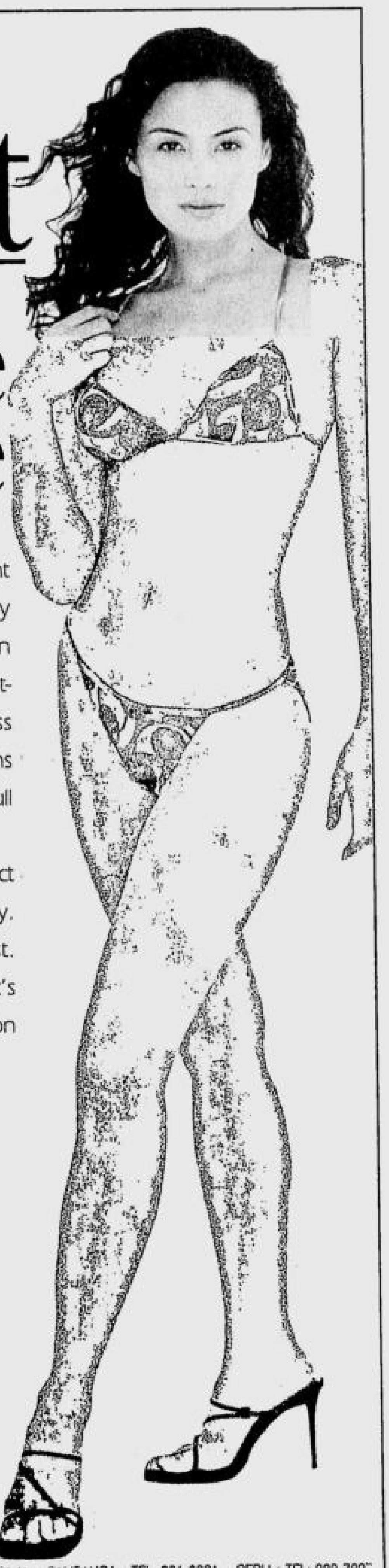

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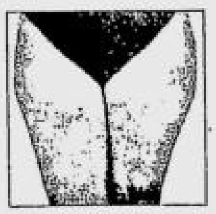

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# Former DAR chief suspended for graft

OMBUDSMAN Simeon Marcelo has placed under a six-month preventive suspension former agrarian reform acting secretary Jose Mari Ponce who is under preliminary investigation for alleged ill-gotten wealth.

Ombudsman investigators said Ponce, who is now chief executive officer of the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority, had acquired wealth beyond his and his wife's lawful means when he was still with the Department of Agrarian Reform.

They said Ponce had concealed the real extent of his assets in the statement of assets and liabilities that he had filed.

"This constituted sufficient basis for the Ombudsman to place Ponce under preventive suspension pending investigation considering that the evidence of guilt is strong," said Marlyn Galvez, the director of he Ombudsman public assistance bureau.

In a statement, the Ombudsman said there were "dramatic increases" in the net worth that Ponce had declared, particularly in the years 1996, 1998, 1999, 2001 and 2003, which he could not satisfactorily explain.

It said his wife's business interests in five companies—Cagayan Satellite Program Network Inc., Inplan consultants, Jeanboys Toyshop, Pyher barbershop and an unnamed video shop—were not enough to justify all their assets.

"Likewise, it was alleged that his net worth for the years 1996, 1998, 1999, 2001 and 2003 far outpaced his declared income as a public officer, and by the data showing his wife's businesses, one of which started only in July 2000 with P75,000 capitalization," Galvez said.

Another significant detail that Ponce allegedly concealed in his 2001 SAL was his acquisition of a P7.1 million residential house and lot in Ferndale Homes in Quezon City.

Apart from administrative offenses like "dishonesty and grave misconduct," which carry a maximum penalty of dismissal from government service, Marcelo said Ponce was also criminally liable for "perjury."

Ponce had allegedly lied in his 2001 SAL by keeping from public records his Ferndale property, whose funding was very "questionable," making the evidence against him "strong," according to Galvez.

His suspension was aimed at preventing Ponce from tampering with records and harassing potential witnesses, the Ombudsman said. *Nelson T. Flores*

# Bishop assails gov't, Luisita on killings

**By Christian V. Esguerra**

ANOTHER Catholic bishop has come out smoking on the raging Hacienda Luisita conflict, criticizing both the government and the Cojuangco-Aquino clan that owns the vast sugar estate in Tarlac.

Lingayen, Pangasinan Archbishop Oscar Cruz was incensed at the idea that sugar farmers were often portrayed as the aggressors, owing to their association with left-leaning organizations.

"Why is it that truth should always be held by those holding power, by those having wealth, by those wielding guns?" he asked in a statement. "Must the poor and the helpless, the protesters and dissenters be always wrong?"

Cruz cited the violent police and military dispersal that killed seven protesters at Hacienda Luisita last November.

Both the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces were quick to announce that the New People's Army had armed and instigated protesters as part of a supposed effort to destabilize the Arroyo administration.

Though picketing workers and their sympathizers were mostly identified with the Left, the prelate said the military and police allegation was "fast, obvious, easy and wrong."

Cruz said it was wrong for authorities to persecute them simply because they joined the barricade, defended their rights and found support from organizations of political activists.

"They conveniently forget that truth is beyond the Right and the Left," he said. "Truth is not necessarily the monopoly of the Right. And the Left is neither always wrong. It is about time that people come to realize and accept the reality long since pointed out—truth knows no party."

Cruz reminded the rich and the influential that they were once "poor and helpless."

"Many of those now in power and authority were protesters and dissenters before," he said.

Just the other day, at least 10 residents of Barangay Cutcut in Luisita were taken from their houses and "invited for questioning" by the military at around 5 a.m., Karl Ala, public information officer of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The residents were identified as Ernesto David, Bong David, Marcos Baluyut, Jun Baluyut, Ailee Domingo, Boy Domingo, Oni Facun, Jerry Mesa, Abner Gajila and Mario Cortez.

Ala claimed that they were asked but refused to sign an affidavit that they had surrendered to the government. They were purportedly released in the evening.

"The incident shows that the military is indeed a party to the targeting, abduction and killings of activists," he said in a text message.

# Japanese prof in Pagsanjan HS graduation

JAPANESE scholar, author and philanthropist Mitsuhuko Miki will be the guest speaker at the 77th commencement exercise of Pagsanjan Academy High School in Pagsanjan, Laguna, on April 2.

Professor Miki, a graduate of Tokyo University majoring in the science and history of religion, worked in various capacities with a number of organizations in Japan, including the Ministry of Education and the Tokyo College of Music.

Since 1978, he has lived in the Philippines where he founded the Philippine-Japan Cultural Institute, taught Nipponggo and staged cultural presentations on the films of Kurosawa, Kabuki, Bizen Yaki ceramics and flower arrangements.

He has authored a number of books including "The Paradise in the Philippines," "Report of My Stay in the Philippines," "Practical Japanese for Filipinos" and "The Philippines: Her Unknown Veiled Face," among others.

Pagsanjan Academy was founded in 1923 by the late Pedro Llamas, a 1908 graduate of the University of Michigan in the United States.

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## Corrections

IN THE report "Special session on VAT off to shaky start over quorum" which was published on Page A1 on March 31, the name of Sen. Mar Roxas was inadvertently not included among the 14 senators who constituted the quorum on the first day of session. He was among the first to arrive for the special session.

* * *

THE STORY "SC won't reopen Ninoy case" on Page A5 of the March 9 issue misstated that Rolando Galman was an airport ground employee. Galman, who was identified by the military as the alleged assassin of former Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, was described by then Maj. Gen. Prospero Olivas as "a notorious criminal" before the Agrava Fact-Finding Board in 1983. Other witnesses, however, described Galman as a farmer and part-time tricycle driver. He did not work in the airport at all.

## THE DAILY GOSPEL

**Friday, April 1, 2005**
**Octave of Easter, Friday**

| | |
|---|---|
| **1st Reading:** | **Acts 4:1-12** |
| **Gospel:** | **Jn 21:1-14** |

Jesus revealed himself to the disciples by the Lake of Tiberias. He appeared to them in this way. Simon Peter, Thomas who was called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee and two other disciples were together; and Simon Peter said to them, "I'm going fishing." They replied, "We will come with you" and they went out and got into the boat. But they caught nothing that night.

When day had already broken, Jesus was standing on the shore, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus called them, "Children, have you anything to eat?" They answered, "Nothing." Then he said to them, "Throw the net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they had lowered the net, they were not able to pull it in because of the great number of fish.

Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, "It's the Lord!" At these words, "It's the Lord," Simon Peter put on his clothes, for he was stripped for work, and jumped into the water. The other disciples came in the boat dragging the net full of fish; they were not far from land, about a hundred meters.

When they landed, they saw a charcoal fire with fish on it, and some bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you've just caught." So Simon Peter climbed into the boat and pulled the net to shore. It was full of big fish—one hundred and fifty-three—but, in spite of this, the net was not torn.

Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast," and not one of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" for they knew it was the Lord. Jesus then came and took the bread and gave it to them, and he did the same with the fish.

This was the third time that Jesus revealed himself to his disciples after rising from the dead.

**Commentary**

*This is Easter breakfast on the beach, with Jesus as the host, providing a warm fire (Spirit) and some bread and fish (Eucharist) calling to his still lost and unaware disciples to come and eat (Eucharist). They are out fishing as they were before they followed Jesus—they have gone back to their own lives. Jesus is on the shore, calling them children and telling them where to catch fish. The beloved disciple recognizes Jesus and cries out the Resurrection proclamation: It is the Lord. Peter puts on his clothes and jumps in the water (baptism) and they come to land. They are fed by the Risen Lord yet do not ask who he is. An awkward breakfast that is also reconciliation and forgiveness, the start of a new relationship between Jesus and themselves and each other, called now to be ministers of reconciliation and forgiveness. It's the third time they will see him, and probably the last time in the flesh.*

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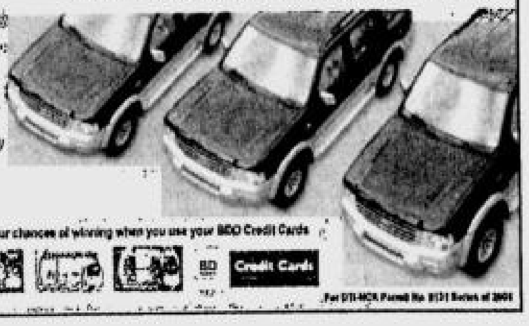

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# Malaysian tugboat crewmen seized by RP gunmen off Sabah

KUALA LUMPUR—Gun-wielding pirates attacked a Malaysian tugboat and kidnapped three of its crew members in the Sulawesi Sea close to Philippine waters, police and officials said Thursday.

Five gunmen, armed with assault rifles, boarded the boat in Malaysian waters off Semporna in the eastern state of Sabah on Borneo island before fleeing towards the southern Philippines with the boat's captain and two crew, a district police spokesperson told AFP.

"We believe the kidnappers could be from the Abu Sayyaf," he said.

Philippine naval forces have been sent to track down the gunmen, who were identified as "pirates" by the Navy regional chief in southern Philippines.

"Our naval units are checking the islands of Tawi-Tawi," said Commodore Rufino Lopez.

The Malaysian-owned Bonggaya 91 was on its way back to Sandakan in Sabah from Indonesia when it was attacked at around 11:00 a.m. local time on Wednesday, its owner Vincent Chang told AFP.

The gunmen seized the boat's radio communication set and mobile phones, said Chang, director of Syarikat Pengangkutan Bonggaya.

The gunmen abducted the tugboat's captain and three crew members, all of whom are Indonesian, he said. No ransom demand had been made, he added.

The remaining crew members arrived in Sandakan on Thursday. *AFP*

## LAS VEGAS SUITE

# Mike A: It was free; what's the problem?

**By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.**

WITH his granddaughter Mikaela sitting on his lap, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo yesterday faced the press for the first time since the controversy arose over his alleged use of a $20,000-a-night suite in Las Vegas during the recent boxing match between Manny Pacquiao and Erick Morales of Mexico.

At a press conference in Malacañang yesterday, Arroyo said he did not see anything corrupt about accepting a generous offer of a suite from the MGM Grand Hotel as he thought that his stature as the husband of a head of state entitled him to such perks.

"It was free. What's the fuss all about? Why don't they check on Erap?" said the President's husband, referring to ousted president Estrada, who is known for his luxurious tastes and is now on trial for corruption.

Arroyo said that some friends of his had offered to pay for a room for him at the same hotel but the hotel management offered to give him complimentary accommodation.

"What person will say 'No, I will pay' if it's free? What's the fuss all about? If it is free, would you insist to pay? So what's their problem if it is for free?" said Arroyo who could not hide his anger.

"It was accommodation fitting a dignitary of my stature as husband of [the] President," he said.

"I don't even know how much my room was because it was free, complimentary," said Arroyo, adding that there was no suite in the whole of Las Vegas carrying a $20,000 per night price tag.

The story first appeared as a blind item in a March 23 column of INQUIRER sports columnist Recah Trinidad which said that a "heavyweight backer" of Filipino boxer Manny Pacquiao had stayed in the $20,000 suite at the MGM Grand. The column did not mention Arroyo.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero on Monday called for a congressional investigation.

Arroyo's representatives came out claiming that the room that the First Gentleman had stayed in was given as complimentary accommodation and that it was not a luxury suite.

Trinidad yesterday denied having recanted his story as claimed by one of Arroyo's defenders, Isabela Rep. Anthony Miranda in an INQUIRER story last Thursday *(See Trinidad's column, A26)*.

In yesterday's press conference, Arroyo said he was used to getting upgrades not only for hotel accommodations but also for plane travel. He said this can become embarrassing so he has had to turn down some of these offers.

"They (the airlines) upgrade me because I'm the husband of the President but sometimes I turn them down because I feel ashamed so I stay in the economy class," he said.

He said he was not a government official nor an employee of government and that he paid out of his own pocket for all his foreign trips and social projects. He also did not gamble or smoke, he said.

"If they saw anybody gambling there, it wasn't me. I don't even know how to gamble," Arroyo said.

Arroyo said the President merely laughed off rumors of his alleged gambling because "she knows I don't gamble, I'm stingy."

He said "the rumormongers" should at least have checked the prevailing room rates at the MGM Grand where the most expensive suite cost $6,000 a night.

He also denied that the room he stayed in was as opulent as claimed.

"Is there a room with an indoor pool? Who said that? Did he see it?" he asked.

Arroyo said he did not know why his Las Vegas lodgings should raise such an outcry.

"Is getting something for free bad? Didn't they think that I went there to cheer for Pacquiao?" he said, adding that Pacquiao fans were outnumbered during the bout because Las Vegas was virtually a Mexican town.

Because of the controversy over his allegedly opulent lodgings, Arroyo said he worried that Filipinos would think twice about going abroad to watch Pacquiao's matches.

"No Pinoy will go there if all they will do is politics. Poor Manny, who will support him then?" said Arroyo, who blamed the opposition for spreading the rumors about his Las Vegas jaunt.

*With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana*

# Bank to appeal NLRC ruling

**By Doris C. Dumlao**

BRITISH banking giant Standard Chartered Bank is appealing an order from a National Labor Relations Commission arbiter to reinstate a terminated executive and pay him P16 million in backwages and benefits.

In a statement yesterday, the bank acknowledged receiving on Tuesday the ruling handed out by Labor Arbiter Pablo Espiritu Jr. that favored Manuel Baviera, its former vice president for HR Service Delivery and Industrial Relations.

Baviera claimed he was illegally sacked after he complained against the British bank's sale of unregistered securities.

Reynaldo Geronimo, legal counsel of Standard Chartered Bank said:

"We were disappointed, but not totally surprised, by this decision. It is clear from reading the judgement that the facts of the case have not been thoroughly reviewed."

"On this basis we will be lodging an immediate appeal with the NLRC. We hope that the facts will prevail and that this initial decision will be overturned," he said.

He maintained that the labor issue surrounding Baviera's case adhered to the strictest principles of due process.

The lawyer said Baviera was found to have violated the bank's code of conduct which contains the disciplinary principles applied to all of the bank's 30,000 employees worldwide.

"Mr. Baviera is the same senior officer who took advantage of his senior position while still serving the bank to cull confidential information and made these to form his platform to build cases against the bank, all of which were made of distorted claims and allegations," Geronimo said.

"It is Mr. Baviera who threatened to file various cases against the bank, and through his lawyer Frank Chavez, demanded from the bank the huge amount of $2 million as settlement. Mr Baviera's attempt to position himself as the 'whistle blower' is both incorrect and opportunistic," he said.

Geronimo said the labor arbiter completely missed the reason why SCB terminated the services of Baviera.

He noted that a hearing was conducted by an independent outside counsel, not the Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc & De Los Angeles Law office and the finding was that Baviera had betrayed his obligation to the company by using documents which came into his possession in confidence, as a senior member of the bank's personnel department, for his own personal and private gain.

"Sensitive information was shared with him in order to enable him to perform his job. But, Mr. Baviera turned around and used the same information to threaten the bank with litigation and adverse publicity if he were not given not only the paper losses in his investment but, in addition, the extravagant amount of $2 million," Geronimo said.

"And when he was not able to make the bank cower in fear and give in, Mr. Baviera carried out his threat by filing numerous cases in various government offices which, by the way, all decided against him," he said.

# Terror suspect stays behind bars

THE INTELLIGENCE Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) has dug up a new arrest warrant against suspected Lenten bomber Tyrone Santos, also known as Dawud Santos, to derail his chances of being released from military custody.

Isafp legal counsel Maj. Ser-me Ayuyao told a Quezon City Regional Trial Court on Wednesday that Santos is being held on the basis of an arrest warrant dated July 18, 2002, issued by a Camiling, Tarlac Regional Trial Court for illegal possession of explosives, firearms and ammunition.

Quezon City RTC Branch 223 Judge Ramon Cruz told Isafp that Santos could post the P200,000 bail so he could be released.

In a press conference yesterday afternoon, Ayuyao said Santos is still in their custody since he has not posted bail.

He said Santos has a second arrest warrant issued by Alaminos City RTC Executive Judge Jules Mejia dated June 2004 for illegal possession of firearms and ammunition.

The one-page warrant, a copy of which was shown to reporters, set bail at P80,000.

Ayuyao however did not give details about the second arrest warrant. He said they had only just discovered the second arrest warrant.

If Santos is able to post bail for the two cases, he would be released, Ayuyao said.

"That's a matter of course. That's the law. We'll abide by the law. We'll release him, unless there are other grounds for his detention," Ayuyao said.

The military will do its best to keep Santos in custody, a spokesperson of the Armed Forces said.

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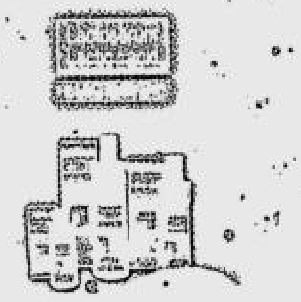

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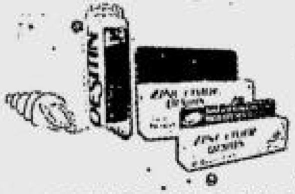

DESITIN CR W/ALOE & VIT E 57G
DESITIN CSTARCH BB PDR 100G
DESITIN DPER RASH OINT 40% 57G
DESITIN DPER RASH OINT 40% 28G

| REG. PRICE | PAY ONLY |
|---|---|
| 180.00 | 165.50 |
| 101.25 | 93.25 |
| 209.50 | 192.75 |
| 163.00 | 150.00 |

**Tioconazole**
Trosyd®

TROSYD CR 1% 15G
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TROSYD LOT 1% 10ML

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| 213.75 | 196.50 |
| 79.75 | 73.25 |
| 114.50 | 105.25 |
| 84.25 | 79.25 |

## ZIMUVITE

ZIMUVITE DRP 15ML
ZIMUVITE DRP 30ML

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| 63.50 | 57.00 |
| 95.00 | 85.50 |

## Combantrin®

COMBANTRIN SUSP 125MG/5ML 10ML
COMBANTRIN SUSP 125MG/5ML 30ML

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| 167.25 | 153.75 |

**Loperamide**
**Imodium**

IMODIUM CAP 2MG
IMODIUM CAP 2MG 10

| REG. PRICE | PAY ONLY |
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| 11.15/cap | 10.00/cap |
| 111.50 | 100.00 |

**Ascorbic Acid**
PEDCEE

PEDCEE SYR 500MG/5ML 240ML

| REG. PRICE | PAY ONLY |
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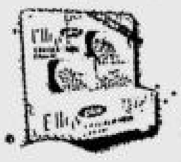
| 214.50 | 195.00 |

## Ellgy plus



ELLGY + CRACKED HEEL CR 50G

| REG. PRICE | PAY ONLY |
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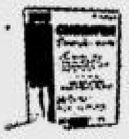
| 315.00 | 283.50 |

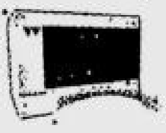
## CHERIFER



CHERIFER CAP
CHERIFER PREM CAP

| REG. PRICE | PAY ONLY |
|---|---|
| 6.90/cap | 6.25/cap |
| 19.00/cap | 17.00/cap |

**Hydrite**



| REG. PRICE | PAY ONLY |
|---|---|
| 9.40/sac | 8.90/sac |
| 10.50/tab | 9.90/tab |

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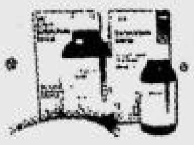
HYDRITE TAB

**Carbocisteine**
**Solmux®**



| REG. PRICE | PAY ONLY |
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| 71.50 | 67.90 |
| 87.25 | 82.75 |

SOLMUX INFANT DROPS 40MG 15ML
SOLMUX PED SUSP 100MG 60ML

**Aluminum Hydroxide**
**Magnesium Hydroxide**
Maalox

MAALOX SUSP 355ML

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**OXANTEL embonate**
QUANTREL®

QUANTREL 20/20 SUSP 10ML

| REG. PRICE | PAY ONLY |
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| 102.00 | 93.75 |

## Anchor

ANCHOR 1+G -UP MLK PDR 180G
ANCHOR 1+G -UP MLK PDR 400G
ANCHOR 1+G -UP MLK PDR 1800G
ANCHOR 1+G -UP MLK PDR 1KG
ANCHOR 1+G -UP MLK CHOC 165G
ANCHOR 1+G -UP MLK CHOC 1KG

| REG. PRICE | PAY ONLY |
|---|---|
| 67.25 | 63.25 |
| 149.00 | 140.00 |
| 623.00 | 585.50 |
| 346.25 | 325.50 |
| 67.25 | 63.25 |
| 363.50 | 341.50 |

BEAR BRAND PDR FMLK 180G
BEAR BRAND PDR FMLK 1.8KG
BEAR BRAND PDR FMLK 400G
BEAR BRAND PDR FMLK 800G
BEAR BRAND PDR FMLK 900G

| REG. PRICE | PAY ONLY |
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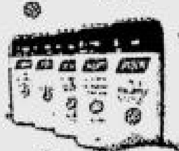
| 39.25 | 38.00 |
| 379.75 | 368.00 |
| 86.25 | 83.50 |
| 167.50 | 162.25 |
| 194.75 | 188.75 |

## Jergens



JERGENS A-BAC 100ML
JERGENS ORIG SC 100ML
JERGENS RPLNSHING MVIT 100ML
JERGENS SKIN LGTHNG 100ML
JERGENS SKIN SMOOTHING 100ML
JERGENS SOOTHING ALOE REL 100ML
JERGENS UL HEALING 100ML
JERGENS UL HEALING FF 100ML

| REG. PRICE | PAY ONLY |
|---|---|
| 42.00 | 39.90 |
| 42.00 | 39.90 |
| 42.00 | 39.90 |
| 92.25 | 87.50 |
| 42.00 | 39.90 |
| 42.00 | 39.90 |
| 42.00 | 39.90 |
| 42.00 | 39.90 |

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Per pack: 1 Ethonah tab, 1 Hyodin tab, 1 Ricyn cap, Per Ethonah tab: Ethambutol HCl 800mg, Per Hyodin tab: Isoniazid 400mg, Per Ricyn cap: Rifampicin 450mg

| | REG. PRICE | PAY ONLY |
|---|---|---|
| *CONTINUKIT BLISTER PCK | 33.50 | 31.75 |

Per pack: 1 Hyodin tab, 1 Ricyn cap 3 Zapedia tab, 1 Ethonah tab. Per Hyodin tab: INH 400mg Per Ricyn cap: Rifampicin 450mg Per Zapedia tab: Pyrazinamide 500mg Per Ethonah tab: Ethambutol HCl 800mg

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| * ECONOKIT BLISTER PCK | 48.00 | 45.50 |

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Per ml: Hydrocortisone acetate, 10mg, neomycin sulfate 3,400u, polymyxin B sulfate 10,000u.

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| * HYDROSPOR EAR DRP 5ML | 180.00 | 170.00 |

Ofloxacin

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| * INOFLOX OTIC SOL 3MG/ML 5ML | 236.75 | 223.75 |

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| * DILATAM TAB 60MG | 22.25 | 21.00 |

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Per cap: Dextromethorphan HBr 15mg, phenylpropanolamine HCl 25mg, paracetamol 325 mg
Per 5ml Susp: Dextromethorphan HBr 10mg, phenylpropanolamine HCl 12.5mg, paracetamol 250mg

| | REG. PRICE | PAY ONLY |
|---|---|---|
| *DECOLSIN CAP REFORM | 4.80 | 4.40 |
| *DECOLSIN REFORM SUSP 60ML | 83.50 | 79.25 |

Salbutamol 2mg, carbocisteine 500mg

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| * SOLMUX BRONCHO SUSP REFORM 60ML | 87.50 | 83.00 |

### ANTIBIOTIC

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|---|---|---|
| * DOXICON CAP 100MG | 38.00 | 36.00 |

Amoxicillin trihydrate

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|---|---|---|
| * HIMOX CAP 500MG | 14.00 | 13.25 |
| * HIMOX PDR DROPS 100MG 10ML | 71.50 | 67.75 |
| * HIMOX SUSP 125MG/5ML 100ML | 94.75 | 90.00 |
| * HIMOX SUSP 125MG/5ML 60ML | 87.25 | 82.75 |
| * HIMOX SUSP 250MG/5ML 100ML | 139.75 | 132.75 |
| * HIMOX SUSP 250MG/5ML 60ML | 134.25 | 119.90 |

Inosiplex

| | REG. PRICE | PAY ONLY |
|---|---|---|
| * IMMUNOSIN SYR 250MG 60ML | 144.00 | 136.75 |
| * IMMUNOSIN TAB 500MG | 16.00 | 15.20 |

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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| * XELENT PDR DRPS 50MG/ML 20ML | 244.50 | 232.25 |
| * XELENT PDR SUSP 125MG/5ML 105ML | 355.25 | 337.25 |
| * XELENT PDR SUSP 125MG/5ML 60ML | 219.00 | 208.00 |
| * XELENT PDR SUSP 250MG/5ML 105ML | 653.50 | 620.75 |
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| *GLUCOFORM TAB 500MG | 4.95 | 4.70 |

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| | REG. PRICE | PAY ONLY |
|---|---|---|
| * APPEBON 500 TAB | 15.25 | 14.50 |

Buclizine HCl 25mg, vits B1 10mg, B6 5mg, B12 10mcg, elem Fe 25mg (as Fe fumarate 76mg)

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| * APPEBON W IRON CAP | 15.95 | 15.00 |

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| Promil Kid 180g | Promil Kid 400g | Promil Kid 900g | Promil Kid 1.6kg | Bonakid 1kg | Progress Gold 400g | Progress Gold 900g | Progress Gold 1.6kg | CHILDREN'S CLUSIVOL Syrup 120mL | Syrup 120mL |

# 27 constitute a quorum? Yes, say 2 House leaders

**By Michael Lim Ubac**

ONLY 27 members of the House of Representatives showed up during the session yesterday, prompting Rep. Rolex Suplico (LDP, Iloilo) to question the lack of a quorum.

But Suplico's protestations fell on deaf ears since House rules allow for a smaller number of members to continue holding a session after the chamber merely suspended and did not adjourn the other day's session.

The House leadership maintained that only the Senate needed the requisite quorum to finish its floor deliberations on the value-added tax (VAT) measure. The House had already approved its VAT version.

Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco, chair of the House committee on foreign affairs, and Rep. Eduardo Gullas, former House deputy speaker, earlier said that a quorum was not a prerequisite to the holding of a special session.

"The House of Representatives only needs to open the session and will just have to await the outcome of the bicameral conference report," Gullas said.

Both Cuenco and Gullas cited Sec. 16, paragraph 2, Article 6 of the 1987 Constitution, which says that "a majority of each House shall constitute a quorum to do business, but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day."

This means that a smaller number of congressional members, in the absence of a quorum, has the same power to open the session, according to Gullas.

Cuenco said that the House need not muster a quorum to open the special session because the "battleground will be at the Senate."

Congress adjourned on March 18 for the Lenten break without seeing the bicameral version of the tax measure, prompting President Macapagal-Arroyo to issue a presidential proclamation on March 19 calling on Congress to hold a special session to pass the VAT bill.

With the Senate still mired in floor debates, the House, before adjourning, saw it fit at the time to constitute its bicam panel headed by House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles and Rep. Jesli Lapus, chair of the House committee on ways and means.

Speaker Jose de Venecia said the House bicam panel was now awaiting its Senate counterpart so that both panels could promptly reconcile disagreeing provisions in the separate versions.

Only then can the tax measure be ratified by both chambers, and subsequently signed into law by Ms Arroyo, he said.

"We are waiting for the Senate to approve the two VAT bills so that we can go into conference committee. That's what we are waiting here for. We're doing nothing," De Venecia said.

The House approved a two-percentage point increase in the VAT rate on Jan. 27, and lifted VAT exemptions on Feb. 28.

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# GMA willing to risk political capital

From page A1

ceived inability to contain inflation, curb corruption and maintain peace and security.

Ms Arroyo noted that she was implementing tough fiscal reforms at a time when the country was reeling from high oil prices.

But the President said she had no choice but to push for these reforms because the country's window for making the needed changes was getting narrower.

"Otherwise we will suffer a fiscal collapse a couple of years down the road," she said.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said Wednesday the government was pinning its hopes on the approval of the VAT measure to reverse the slide in the President's approval ratings.

## Mistake

But two opposition senators said it would be a mistake for the President to rely on the passage of the controversial VAT bill to reverse her low approval rating.

The passage of the measure would cause her popularity rating to further spiral down, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said.

"She has already hit rock bottom in terms of popularity because of her erroneous policies," Pimentel told reporters at the opening of the Conference of Southeast Asian Parliamentarians against Corruption in Pasay City.

"As a matter of fact, that will add to her woes rather than bail her out of her predicament for the simple reason that the 2-percentage point increase in VAT would cause more hardships for our people," he said.

Echoing Pimentel, Sen. Edgardo Angara said it would be wrong to pin one's approval rating on a single law like VAT because a tax law was always unpopular.

He said there must be reforms in other areas such as education, health and food. "We have already exhausted the tax frontier," he told reporters.

In the House of Representatives, Minority Leader Francis Escudero said Ms Arroyo's persistent lobbying for the passage of the VAT reform measure was to blame for the latest plunge in her popularity rating.

"It's VAT," said Escudero, "and the fact that the government has not done anything to improve the quality of life of the poor in our country."

Escudero said the non-passage of the VAT measure could somehow shore up her sagging popularity rating.

## Writing on the wall

Lawmakers associated with the Left capitalized on the drop in Ms Arroyo's ratings to paint yet another doomsday scenario.

"She should heed the 'writing on the wall' or face the same fate as her predecessor did," said Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casiño.

Casiño said Ms Arroyo's popularity rating was immensely lower than that of then President Joseph Estrada a few months before he was ousted.

He noted that the President's popularity rating "goes down as fast as the prices of commodities goes up" because people were worried about inflation.

## Bitter pills

Vice President Noli de Castro came to the defense of Ms Arroyo, saying the presidency was not a popularity contest.

De Castro, a popular broadcast journalist before becoming the second top official of the land, said the President's low approval rating was "not a cause for worry."

"In the midst of the crises and disasters the country faced in the past months, the government was constrained to undertake unpopular actions and programs to move the nation forward," he said at the inauguration of a housing project in Barangay Maybunga in Pasig City.

De Castro said "unpopular" programs and decisions made by the government were the bitter pills that people must swallow to enable the country to get back to its feet.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the President "accepts" the results of Pulse Asia's survey.

## Tool for management

Bunye said the President looked at the Pulse Asia survey as "a tool for management" to determine what areas should be given more focus.

"Since the root of our problems is economic, then the President is answering with an economic solution," Bunye said.

While she might be unfazed by her eroding popularity, Bunye said this did not mean she was not empathizing with the Filipino's struggle to cope with the rising cost of living.

"The President understands only too well the difficulties being encountered by the people and the government is doing all it can to mitigate these through protecting consumers, monitoring the markets and leading the energy conservation campaign," said Bunye in a statement.

The President defended her move to raise taxes "to bring economic stability and predictability to the Philippine economy."

Bunye explained that the long-term solution to high prices was achieving economic growth, creating high-paying jobs and attracting foreign investments.

## Focused

Ms Arroyo said she was "focused like a laser beam" in trying to solve the country's ills, including the surging oil prices.

"If you look at the price of oil or gasoline in the Philippines compared with other countries, it's lower," Ms Arroyo told reporters in Marawi City.

She said creating "new high wage jobs" was needed for the people to cope with rising prices.

To address the problem of high prices in the short-term, the President said the government was cutting "wasteful" spending, protecting consumer rights and monitoring the markets. *Reports from Gil Cabacungan Jr., Christine O. Avendaño, Cynthia D. Balana and Michael Lim Ubac*

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# With VAT on menu, Palace wines, dines some solons

From page A1

could be signed into law in 10 to 15 days.

"I'm not too sure about that," Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., however, said.

## More special sessions

Apparently miffed at the slow pace in the approval of the VAT measure in the Senate, Ms Arroyo yesterday threatened to keep on calling for a special session of Congress until the measure was passed.

Asked whether the executive branch would settle for other revenue-generating measures other than the VAT, Ms Arroyo was firm on Malacañang's desire to have the VAT measure approved.

"I'm very confident that the statesmanship and civic duty of our legislators will prevail. So I'm not doing a Plan B," the President said in Marawi City.

Ms Arroyo also dismissed the possibility of her meeting with Senate leaders to prod them even more to pass the VAT bill.

"They're debating on the best kind of law that is (needed for) the balance of the P80 billion that I asked for. They know that. So I'm confident in their wisdom and patriotism," President Arroyo said.

## Receptive to signals

Before she delivered a 15-page privilege speech titled "Yes to VAT, except power and petroleum," Santiago told reporters that the House and the Senate "will be very receptive to presidential signals."

Asked if the President had already sent signals, Santiago said: "Well in my case, I had dinner with the President and I suggested to her that she take out to dinner everybody else."

It is not known if the President took Santiago's suggestion.

The senator said it was she who asked the President about the purpose of the dinner. "I want to know what I'm being fed for."

The President was quite forthcoming about what she wanted, Santiago said.

## VAT hike necessary

"Well, she said that for every day that we delay the passage of a VAT law, the government loses so many billion pesos in interest and so she was appealing for punctuality in the passage of her bill," Santiago said.

The President, she said, "did not dictate what form she prefers."

"Initially she expressed hesitation (on the proposal) that will allow the VAT to remain at 10 percent but will give the President the power to raise it to 12 percent under certain conditions. She did not want that provision but I understand that she has recently said that she is willing to accept any responsibility if imposed on her by the VAT law as long as it is passed promptly," Santiago said.

**A MEATY proposal to President Arroyo from Sen. Miriam Santiago on how to get the senators to VAT for her.** JESS YUSON

The senator, however, said her dinner with the President had nothing to do with her increasingly active assertion of the need to raise VAT from 10 percent to 12 percent and exempt power and petroleum.

"No, because actually before I met the President I had already gone through the papers of my economics consultants and they were unanimous that VAT is necessary and that exemptions should be lifted," she said.

Santiago voiced her preference for the House version, which hikes the VAT rate to 12 percent.

## Timetable

The Senate leadership gave an optimistic timetable for the passage of the measure.

"Based on informative discussions held yesterday, we can expect major headway in the next two days. I am optimistic that we shall have a socially sensitive VAT measure enacted into law in 10-15 days," Pangilinan said.

"We are looking at hammering out in the bicam by next week a compromise version ready for Malacañang's signature by the second or third week of April at the latest," he said.

The final shape of the VAT will emerge from the bicameral conference committee, usually referred to as the third chamber where differences in the Senate and House versions are ironed out.

Pangilinan assured the public that the "Senate is focused on addressing the fiscal deficit head on, and without further delay."

Drilon said he was confident the interpellation would be finished last night so that they could go to the period of amendments today.

By 6 p.m. yesterday, Santiago was done interpellating Sen. Ralph Recto, chair of the Senate ways and means committee. Opposition Senators Jamby Madrigal and Serge Osmeña are the last two senators set to interpellate Recto.

Asked if the bill would be passed today, Drilon said: "In my view we can still do that because today, this afternoon, we will try to finish with the questions of the three senators."

## Showdown

Senators expect the Senate showdown during the period of amendments, when some senators are expected to propose the increase in the VAT rate to 12 percent and the continued exemption of the power and petroleum sectors.

The majority of senators were said to be in favor of retaining the VAT at 10 percent but Santiago said many administration senators were actually in favor of the increase.

"It is possible to get it passed (today). But as I said, the real struggle is at the bicam meeting for one simple reason—the two versions are entirely different," opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara said.

Angara said the Senate version was "more superior" because it expanded the VAT base without raising the rate.

"To me a potential or possible compromise is that the bicam should adopt the Senate version because it expanded the coverage and with that, the yield is equal to an increase of two-percentage points," Angara said.

## Defects in Senate bill

But Santiago was confident that the House version would prevail.

"A bicam is really an end game (when) you have eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation and the first one to blink loses. There are many defects in the Senate bill," Santiago said. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

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# *'Lipo' fat can be used to sex up private parts*

From page A1

moisturizers? Or are these transferred to reed-thin or malnourished people?

No, but the fat can be transferred elsewhere in the body. These can be used for augmentation procedures, that is, fat sucked out of a patient can go to other body parts that need enhancement.

According to Dr. Anna Marie Kare, cosmetic surgeon and OB gynecologist, "new methods allow excess fats" to be used as implants in breasts "instead of the silicone gel."

## From abdomen to breasts

Such was the case of her recent patient, a "flat-chested" woman who last February underwent liposuction. Fats extracted from her abdomen were later infused into her breasts. So far, according to the doctor, the woman is doing very well.

Well-known cosmetic surgeon, Dr. Manny Calayan, said the majority of his fat transfer cases involved penile enlargements.

According to him, the process involves using transfer syringes to suck the fats and setting aside these syringes to allow for the separation of fats and liquids, after which the fats are injected into the part for augmentation.

## 'Fillers for dents'

Fats to be transferred should come from the same person, Dr. Calayan emphasized, or these would be rejected by the body which would detect a mismatch.

Other than the breasts and penis, fats can be used for cheeks and butt augmentation as well as "fillers for dents" like the lines on one's forehead.

If a patient wants both the liposuction and augmentation, he or she does not need two or more separate sessions for the procedures. In fact, Dr. Kare, discourages it, saying that "is more costly."

Dr. Calayan says doing both procedures take about one and a half hours to two hours and then the patient can go home.

## Biological wastes

And what if the excess fats have no other use for the liposuction patient? According to Dr. Kare, "our patients don't want to see their fats so we put these in sterile bottles and dispose them" like other biological wastes which are placed in biodegradable waste bins. She added that "there is nothing toxic" about these fats.

But she had cases when patients asked for their fats, so these were placed in bottles and filled with formalin.

In Dr. Calayan's clinic, they have incinerators to burn the disposable fats.

## Contouring procedure

Liposuction is a procedure that can sculpt the body by removing unwanted fats from areas that do not respond to dieting or exercise. It is not intended as a substitute for weight loss, but rather as a contouring procedure.

For women, frequently treated areas are the abdomen, hips, thighs (saddlebags), knees and chin. While commonly treated areas for men are the hips (love handles), abdomen, breasts and chin.

The best candidates for liposuction are normal-weight people with firm, elastic skin with pockets of excess fat in certain areas. Ideally, one must be physically healthy. Although age is not a major factor, older patients may have diminished skin elasticity and may not achieve the same results as a younger patient with tighter skin.

During liposuction, fluid is lost along with the fat, which is why it is important for this fluid to be replaced during the procedure to prevent shock.

## Origin

The first major advance toward liposuction was led by Italian gynecologist Dr. Giorgio Fischer in 1974 when he used a spoon-like surgical instrument attached to a suction apparatus to remove fats. Four years later, French plastic surgeon Dr. Yves-Gerard Illouz made use of pressure vacuum to suck the fats. In the 1980s liposuction reached the United States where doctors developed methods to make the procedure safer.

## Fatality

In the Philippines, a botched liposuction killed a 36-year-old woman in 1996. Despite this, the procedure continued to gain popularity after several movie stars underwent the procedure, including popular comedienne Ethel Booba, a patient of Dr. Calayan.

Despite the rather prohibitive rates (P30,000 to P40,000 for liposuction; P20,000 to 25,000 for nose lift; P90,000 to P120,000 for breast augmentation), patients lining up to undergo the procedures come from all social classes as exemplified by the 28-year-old maid who recently underwent a nose job.

And for those who may really need cosmetic procedures but do not have the money, Dr. Kare offers her services for free to poor people who can visit her in her clinics on Taft Avenue and at De los Santos Hospital and St. Luke's.

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| AK502 | BKI-CRK | 14:05 | 16:05 | Daily |
| AK503 | CRK-BKI | 11:40 | 13:40 | Daily |

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| 17:30 | 19:30 | 12:00 | 14:00 |

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# The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

# Over 700 aftershocks rattle Nias island

**GUNUNG SITOLI, Indonesia—Rescuers worked through powerful aftershocks to pull earthquake survivors from the rubble on Indonesia's Nias island Thursday, as efforts to bring in vital excavation gear hit new snags.**

More than 700 tremors have struck the remote island off the coast of Sumatra since Monday's massive 8.7-magnitude quake killed hundreds of people and spread panic in Indian Ocean nations which feared a repeat of last year's tsunami.

The largest tremor was recorded at 6.3 on the Richter scale, on the same fault line that generated both Monday's quake and the Dec. 26 magnitude-9.0 disaster—and which seismologists warn may unleash another killer shockwave.

Officials say the toll could be as high as 2,000 while the United Nations said 624 bodies had been found so far. "We do anticipate that figure is still going to go up," said UN Development Program spokesperson Imogen Wall.

Aid began to flow into the worst-affected island of Nias Thursday, bolstered by the arrival of three Indonesian warships bringing troops and supplies to the capital Gunung Sitoli.

But heavy-duty excavation gear on board the vessels, which could be used to save people still clinging to life beneath the ruins, was not immediately brought ashore since there was nowhere for the ships to dock.

"The current difficulty we're facing now is heavy machinery. However, this equipment is on its way to Nias," said armed forces chief Sutarto on a visit to the island.

"At at the moment there are already four excavators on board our navy ship but we're still trying to find a way to bring them onto land," he said.

Logistical problems, including runway damage that has closed Nias island's airport to larger planes, have held up supplies and equipment to dig survivors out of collapsed buildings.

But medical supplies, tents and food were flowing smoothly into the area. Singaporean military helicopters and United Nations rescue teams were joined by scores of other foreign aid missions, many returning to the area after aiding with the tsunami relief effort.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono also visited Nias Thursday, ignoring constant rain to hug survivors and join prayers for the dead outside St. Mary's Catholic church in Gunung Sitoli.

"We are here to help, we will repair everything, have patience," he told parishioners gathered at the church. Along with mosques and Buddhist temples in the city, it has been used as a makeshift morgue.

Elsewhere in the city people tried to salvage possessions, while a few hunted in the hope of finding loved ones still alive.

One woman, Meicen, 38, whose husband was buried in the rubble, wailed loudly outside the ruins of her home as three other women tried to calm her.

"If the body of my husband can be found, I will be glad, because he can then rest in the netherworld ... God, why did you take him, I no longer have someone to love," she cried. "Help, help me find him." AFP

**A SINGAPORE** special assistance military personnel carries an injured girl to a helicopter after a massive earthquake hit the town of Gunung Sitoli in Indonesia's Nias island March 31. Strong aftershocks rattled Indonesia's earthquake-devastated Nias island on Thursday as international aid flowed in and rescuers pulled survivors and bodies out of the rubble of collapsed buildings. REUTERS

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## Tsunami-quake was 9.3, twice as powerful as thought

PARIS—In a reassessment of the Dec. 26 earthquake that unleashed the Indian Ocean killer tsunami, scientists say the temblor measured 9.3 on the Richter scale—more than twice as powerful as originally estimated and the second biggest quake ever recorded.

The quake split the ocean floor northward from Sumatra along 1,200 km, twice as long as previously thought, according to their research, which appears on Thursday in Nature, the weekly British science journal.

The event released so much strain along this particular part of the fault that in theory there should be no quake of similar magnitude, or a similar tsunami, there for another 400 years, said geologists Seth Stein and Emile Okal of Northwestern University, Illinois.

But farther south, it is a different picture.

The scientists—who wrote before last Monday's quake, which also struck western Sumatra—warned with uncanny prescience that "a great earthquake" with the potential to generate a large tsunami remained a threat south of the Dec. 26 site.

The Dec. 26 quake occurred off northwestern Sumatra, at the nexus where the Indian plate of the Earth's crust is sliding under a tongue-shaped sliver called the Burma microplate.

It was initially thought to be 9.0 on the Richter scale.

But an evaluation of very low frequency data from seismograms shows that the quake was in fact 9.3 magnitude.

As the Richter scale is logarithmic, the difference between 9.3 and 9.0 is 2.5 times, the study said.

"Conventional methods used to assess earthquake size dramatically underestimated it," the study said.

"(...) This makes the Indonesian earthquake the second largest ever to be instrumentally recorded."

Only one measured quake has been bigger: a 9.5 event that struck Chile in 1960.

However, that quake caused far less damage when compared with Dec. 26, largely because the grinding plates in east Asia meet at an unusually oblique angle, causing the energy to propagate northward along a weakened fault.

Research led by Chinese seismologist Ni Sidao of the University of Science and Technology at Hefei, Anhui province, sheds dramatic light on what happened on the floor of the eastern Indian Ocean.

Their computer model, also published in Nature, suggests that the quake delivered a high-frequency shock that lasted a stunning 500 seconds, compared with 340 seconds for the Chile event in 1960.

From Indonesia to just south of Burma (Myanmar), the ocean ruptured at 2.5 kilometers per second in an arc measuring 1,200 km.

The rip occurred along the so-called Sunda megathrust—the great tectonic frontier along which the Australian and Indian plates begin their descent beneath Southeast Asia.

Stein and Okal also estimate a rupture of 1,200 km, and say that this figure would explain why Sri Lanka and southern India were so badly hit by the tsunami. AFP

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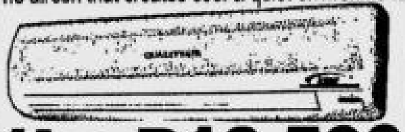

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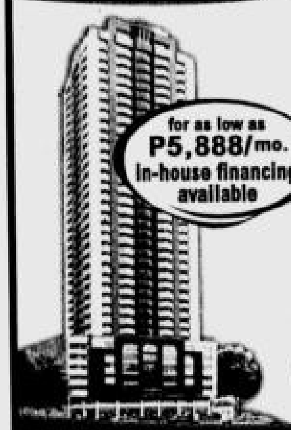

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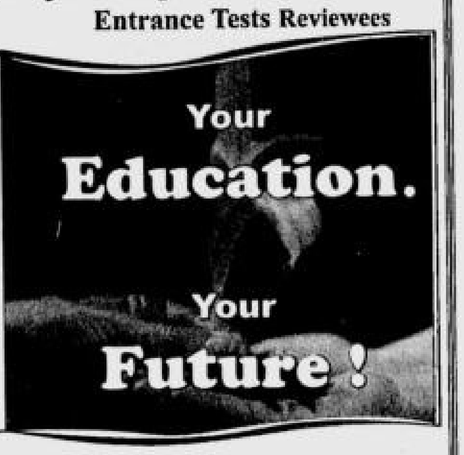

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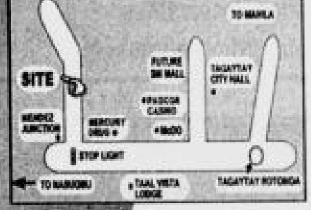

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# Isang Text Ka Lang

## Napakadali na ng pagbabayad sa BIR dahil sa GLOBE G CASH

Isang napakahalagang partner government agency ng G-Cash ang Bureau of Internal Revenue dahil sa patuloy nitong pakikipagtulungan sa Globe para lalong mapadali ang buhay ng taxpayers. Kaugnay ng partnership na ito ang paglunsad noong January 2005 ng PAYBIR via G-Cash, ang serbisyong maaaring gamitin para sa business registration renewal na ngayon ay pwede na ring gamitin para sa iba pang BIR payments tulad ng income tax, documentary stamps pati na rin fines at penalties.

Ang bagong PAYBIR ay magsisimula ngayong April at magiging available buong taon. Dahil sa G-Cash siguradong hindi na magiging problema ang pagbabayad on time para maiwasan ang penalties na siya namang layunin ng Tax Collection Drive ng BIR. Talagang pinadali ng G-Cash ang pagbabayad ng buwis:

- **Hindi na kailangang pumila.**
- **Pwedeng magbayad kahit Sabado o Linggo saan ka man naroroon.**
- **May libreng G-Cash item kapag nagbayad ng buwis gamit ang G-Cash at mag-sumite ng income tax return form sa selected business centers at RDO offices.**

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Kaya ngayon, hindi na problema pa ang pagbabayad ng inyong buwis. Sa tulong ng G-Cash at ng Landbank, na siyang authorized agent bank for mobile tax payment ng BIR, pwede na ninyo itong gawin ano mang oras at saan man kayo narooon.

## Ang pagbabayad ng buwis ay kasing dali lang ng pagpapadala ng text message

1. Ang PAYBIR sa pamamagitan ng G-Cash ay available lamang sa lahat ng Globe at TM subscribers na naka-register sa G-Cash service.

2. Para mag-register sa G-Cash, i-text lamang ang mga sumusunod sa 2882:

***REG<space>MPIN/Pangalan ng Nanay sa Pagkadalaga/Pangalan/Apelyido/Tirahan/Telephone number***
***Halimbawa:***
***REG 1234/Aurora Reyes/July Santos/5 Santol St., Project 4 QC/027564321***

Makakatanggap ka ng isang text bilang kumpirmasyon.

3. Bago kayo magsimulang magbayad, siguraduhin munang may sapat na halaga ang inyong mobile wallet. Kung kailangang lagyan ng G-Cash ang mobile wallet ninyo magtungo lang sa pinakamalapit na Globe Business Center, Authorized G-Cash partner establishment katulad ng SM Department Store o major BIR RDOs.

4. Kapag naka-register na kayo at may laman na ang mobile wallet mo, pwede nang magsimulang magbayad ng buwis na gamit ang G-Cash. Tandaan lang na tumatanggap lang ng hanggang P10,000 ang serbisyong ito. Para magbayad, i-type lamang ang mga sumusunod at ipadala sa 2882:

***PAYBIR<space>Amount<space>MPIN<space>Form Type<space>Tax Type<space>Return Period<space>TIN<space>TPBC<space>RDO<space>TPName***
***Halimbawa:***
***PAYBIR 2500 1234 1700 IT 032805 108440890 112 ABC Company***

5. Pagkatapos ng transaksyon, kinakailangang kumpletuhin ng subscribers ang tamang BIR Tax Return Form at ilagay ang G-Cash transaction reference number sa may gawing ibaba ng tax return.

6. Ang Tax Return forms ay maaaring i-sumite sa Globe Business Centers sa Pioneer, Gateway Mall, Robinson's Galleria at Festival Mall hanggang April 15 o sa kahit anong RDO within 2005.

7. Siguraduhin ding magtatago kayo ng kopya ng return form for future reference. Maaaring makakuha ng kopya ng inyong form mula sa www.bir.gov.ph isang araw matapos bayaran ang inyong buwis.

**Ang mga sumusunod ay ang mga tamang form type at kumbinasyon ng tax type**

| Form Type | Form Title | Tax Type | Tax Type Description |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1700 | Annual Income Tax Return for Individuals Earning Purely Compensation Income | IT | Annual Income Tax |
| 1701 | Annual Income Tax Return for Self-Employed, Professionals, Estates, and Trusts | IT | Annual Income Tax |
| 0605 | Payment Form | IT | Second installment of Income Tax |
| | | RF | Registration Fee |
| 0613 | Payment Form – Under Tax Compliance Verification Drive/ Tax Mapping | FP | Fines and Penalties |
| 2000 | Documentary Stamp Tax Declaration/Return | DS | Documentary Stamp Tax – Regular |

**Mga Globe Business Centers na Tumatanggap ng BIR Tax Returns hanggang April 15, 2005:**

| BUSINESS CENTER | ADDRESS | OPERATING HOURS |
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| GATEWAY | 3/F Gateway Mall Araneta Center, Cubao Quezon City | Mon-Thu (10:00am-9:00pm)<br>Fri-Sun (10:00am-10:00pm) |
| GALLERIA | Ground Flr., Level 1, 1-A11 Robinson's Galleria Mall (near Pizza Hut) | Mon-Sun (10:00am-9:00pm) |
| FESTIVAL MALL | Unit 4064 A&B (4/F) Alabang Zapote Wing, Filinvest Festival Supermall, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang Muntinlupa (near Game Worx) | Mon-Sun (10:00am-9:00pm) |

**Mga RDOs na Mayroong Cash-In Booth Kung Saan Pwedeng Magpalit ng G-Cash:**

| Revenue District Office | Address |
|---|---|
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| RDO Quezon City | Quezon City – Revenue Region 7<br>BIR Regional Office Bldg.<br>Quezon Ave., Quezon City |
| RDO Makati Atrium | Makati – Revenue Region 8<br>5/F Atrium Bldg.<br>Makati Ave., Makati City |

Mga Kahulugan:
Amount - halaga ng babayarang buwis
MPIN - ang iyong 4-digit mobile personal identification number
Form Type - ang Tax Return Form No. na ginagamit sa pagbabayad ng buwis
Tax Type - uri ng buwis na babayaran
Return Period - para sa petsa, sundin ang ganitong ayos – MMDDYY e.g. 033105 (Mar.31, 2005)
TIN - ang iyong 9-digit TIN
TPBC - ang iyong 3-digit taxpayer's branch code; o huling 3-digit ng 12-digit TIN
RDO - 3-digit code ng Revenue District Office magmula 000 hanggang 118
TPName - Taxpayer's registered name o naka-rehistrong pangalan ng iyong negosyo

# Bush WMD commission faults US spy agencies

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush's commission on weapons of mass destruction has found that failures throughout US spy agencies led to botched estimates of the threat posed by Saddam Hussein and is recommending dozens of changes to prevent future intelligence breakdowns, government officials say.

The commission also is expected to be highly critical of US abilities to infiltrate Iran and North Korea, considered two leading threats today. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because the report was not yet public.

The commission was releasing its final report, spanning more than 600 pages, Thursday after more than a year of work that included closed-door sessions with Bush and other top administration officials.

Numerous government reports have detailed intelligence failures since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. This commission is the first formed by Bush to look at why US spy agencies mistakenly concluded that Iraq had stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction, one of the administration's main justifications for invading in March 2003.

Bush also asked the nine-member panel to review the structure of the nation's spy agencies and the major intelligence overhaul he signed into law in December.

Government officials said the commission levels criticisms across the 15 agencies that make up the US intelligence community. The panel dissected the prewar estimates of the threat posed by Saddam and considered how any shortcomings are affecting intelligence assessments elsewhere, officials said.

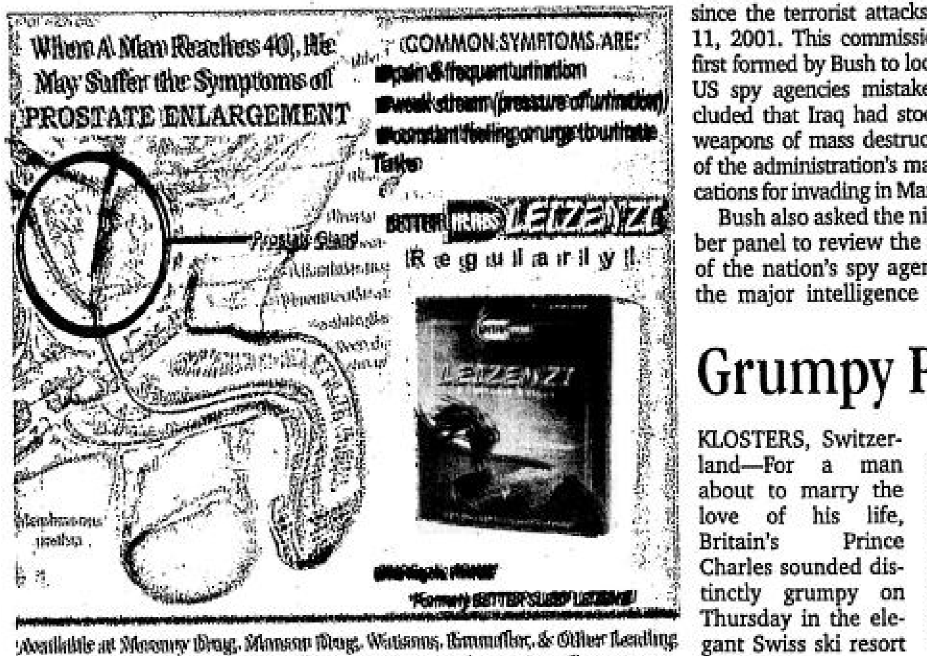
The panel also considered a range of intelligence issues beyond Iraq, including congressional oversight, satellite imagery and electronic snooping. Among numerous soft spots, officials familiar with the findings say "human intelligence"—the work of actual operatives on the ground—is lacking.

According to officials, the report:

- Recommends forming a new intelligence center to focus on weapons proliferation.
- Chastises intelligence agencies for their continued failure to share information, despite numerous reforms aimed at improving coordination.
- Stresses the need for ongoing training for analysts and operatives and new procedures for considering dissenting intelligence analysis.
- Calls on intelligence agencies to take concrete steps to ensure information from their sources is valid—a move prompted in part by an Iraqi defector who provided suspect information ultimately included in a top intelligence estimate.
- Proposes updating the FBI's computers and creating a new national security division within the Justice Department.

A year ago, Bush formed the commission led by Republican Laurence Silberman, a retired federal appeals court judge, and Democrat Charles Robb, a former senator from Virginia, as it became clear that US weapons inspectors were not going to find stockpiles of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

White House spokesperson Scott McClellan has said Bush would discuss the report with Cabinet members on Thursday, immediately after the president meets with the full commission. "Making sure we have the best possible intelligence is critical to protecting the American people," McClellan said. *AP*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# Grumpy Prince Charles calls reporters 'bloody people'

KLOSTERS, Switzerland—For a man about to marry the love of his life, Britain's Prince Charles sounded distinctly grumpy on Thursday in the elegant Swiss ski resort of Klosters.

Mumbling under his breath at a photocall with sons William and Harry, the heir to the throne was caught on the assembled microphones saying: "I hate doing this."

Confronted by a phalanx of reporters and photographers, he whispered "Bloody people!"

The royal party traditionally offers a carefully stage-managed photocall on the slopes in return for being left alone when they go skiing in Klosters every spring.

This year, however, the unwritten agreement has already broken down, with paparazzi snapping William together with his girlfriend Kate Middleton.

Charles' marriage next week to his longtime lover Camilla Parker Bowles has been dogged by setbacks.

The venue had to be switched from Windsor Castle to the local town hall in a mix-up over marriage licenses, Queen Elizabeth refused to attend her son's wedding and constitutional experts are even questioning the legality of a civil ceremony. *Reuters*

**PRINCE Charles (center) and his sons Prince William (right) and Prince Harrypose for photographs in Klosters, March 31. The Prince of Wales and his sons are taking a private holiday in the Swiss mountain resort of Klosters.** REUTERS

## ERRATUM

**In the CGU International Insurance plc's 2002-2003 Synopsis of Annual Statement published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer on March 17, 2005, there were inadvertent errors.**

| | Published | Should Be |
|---|---|---|
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| Total Admitted Assets | 451,868,491.36 | 451,868,721.36 |

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0582 Series of 2005

# Wolfowitz set to be named 10th World Bank president

WASHINGTON—The World Bank was expected later Thursday to appoint Paul Wolfowitz as its 10th president, but the US deputy defense secretary still has far to go to disarm his army of critics.

The World Bank's 24 executive directors, representing its 184 member nations, were to meet from 1500 GMT to elect the successor to James Wolfensohn, who steps down on May 31 after a decade in the job.

Wolfowitz is the sole candidate to serve as president of the International Monetary Fund's sister institution for at least the next five years.

The high priest of "neoconservative" thinking has worked hard on a charm offensive since being nominated by US President George W. Bush to a job that is traditionally Washington's to bestow.

European nations are begrudgingly ready to accept Wolfowitz in the most important role in international development, despite viewing him with distrust because of his leading role toward war in Iraq.

Wolfowitz stands accused not only of pushing a deeply unpopular invasion, but also of vastly underestimating Iraq's post-war needs through a "neocon" belief that the fruits of US-imposed liberal economics would be immediate.

He will need to buck up his ideas as head of an organization that last year extended $20 billion in funding for development projects around the globe, critics argue.

Wolfowitz has sought to win over opponents by pledging to stay true to the World Bank's core mission. During a pre-confirmation visit to Brussels Wednesday, he described the fight against poverty as a "noble mission."

"It is also a critical part of making the world a better place for all of us," he said after meeting Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker, whose country holds the European Union presidency.

"It is not just the material side of life that improves; peace and freedom are also advanced when more people can enjoy the benefits of prosperity and human dignity," he added.

Aside from choosing Wolfensohn's successor, the bank directors Thursday were expected to approve a $1.2-billion hydroelectricity project in communist-ruled Laos.

Opponents say the Nam Theun 2 dam will prove an environmental disaster, like similar World Bank-funded projects in the past. But the authorities say it is essential for development in one of the world's poorest countries. *AFP*

# UN grapples with fallout from oil-for-food scandal

UNITED NATIONS—The United Nations faced renewed questions on Wednesday over an inquiry into the oil-for-food program that found an official shredded years of documents after the probe was begun.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan claimed he was vindicated Tuesday by a panel headed by former US federal reserve banking chief Paul Volcker, which found he had not helped obtain a contract for a company that employed his son Kojo.

But the report disclosed that Annan's chief of staff ordered the shredding of three years of documents, covering the years 1997-1999 when Swiss firm Cotecna got the contract, which the panel said may have contained evidence.

Spokesperson Fred Eckhard defended Annan in a news briefing, describing the shredding last year as routine although then chief of staff Iqbal Riza ordered it one day after the UN Security Council approved the Volcker probe.

"You would not consult the secretary general on such a routine matter," Eckhard said when asked about the destruction of the files. "All of us shred all the time."

Eckhard said Annan had been repeatedly "smeared" by newspaper accounts of the scandal over the past year, which has tarnished the UN image and led to calls for Annan's resignation.

Asked on Tuesday if he would step down, Annan replied: "Hell no." *AFP*

# Study: Humans have polluted 2/3 of Earth's ecology

OSLO—Humans are damaging the planet at an unprecedented rate and raising risks of abrupt collapses in nature that could spur disease, deforestation or "dead zones" in the seas, an international report said on Wednesday.

The study, by 1,360 experts in 95 nations, said a rising human population had polluted or over-exploited two-thirds of the ecological systems on which life depends, ranging from clean air to fresh water, in the past 50 years.

"At the heart of this assessment is a stark warning," said the 45-member board of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.

"Human activity is putting such strain on the natural functions of Earth that the ability of the planet's ecosystems to sustain future generations can no longer be taken for granted," it said.

Ten to 30 percent of mammal, bird and amphibian species were already threatened with extinction, according to the assessment, the biggest review of the planet's life support systems.

"Over the past 50 years, humans have changed ecosystems more rapidly and extensively than in any comparable time in human history, largely to meet rapidly growing demands for food, fresh water, timber, fiber and fuel," the report said.

"This has resulted in a substantial and largely irreversible loss in the diversity of life on earth," it added. More land was changed to cropland since 1945, for instance, than in the 18th and 19th centuries combined.

"The harmful consequences of this degradation could grow significantly worse in the next 50 years," it said. The report was compiled by experts, including from UN agencies and international scientific and development organizations.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said the study "shows how human activities are causing environmental damage on a massive scale throughout the world, and how biodiversity—the very basis for life on earth—is declining at an alarming rate."

The report said there was evidence that strains on nature could trigger abrupt changes like the collapse of cod fisheries off Newfoundland in Canada in 1992 after years of over-fishing.

Future changes could bring sudden outbreaks of disease.

Warming of the Great Lakes in Africa due to climate change, for instance, could create conditions for a spread of cholera.

And a build-up of nitrogen from fertilizers washed off farmland into seas could spur abrupt blooms of algae that choke fish or create oxygen-depleted "dead zones" along coasts.

It said deforestation often led to less rainfall. And at some point, lack of rain could suddenly undermine growing conditions for remaining forests in a region.

The report said that in 100 years, global warming widely blamed on burning of fossil fuels in cars, factories and power plants, might take over as the main source of damage. The report mainly looks at other, shorter-term risks.

And it estimated that many ecosystems were worth more if used in a way that maintains them for future generations.

A wetland in Canada was worth $6,000 a hectare, as a habitat for animals and plants, a filter for pollution, a store for water and a site for human recreation, against $2,000 if converted to farmland, it said. A Thai mangrove was worth $1,000 a hectare against $200 as a shrimp farm.

"Ecosystems and the services they provide are financially significant and ... to degrade and damage them is tantamount to economic suicide," said Klaus Toepfer, head of the UN Environment Program. *Reuters*

# FBI arrests Saudi prince's wife on maid abuse charge

BOSTON—FBI agents on Wednesday arrested a Saudi prince's wife on charges she forced two Indonesian women to work for her as servants and threatened them with "serious harm" if they refused, prosecutors said.

Hana Al Jader, 39, was arrested on federal charges at her home in the upscale Boston suburb of Winchester, Massachusetts.

A US magistrate judge ordered her held without bail pending a hearing on Friday afternoon.

Al Jader was charged in a 10-count indictment with forced labor, domestic servitude, falsifying records, visa fraud and harboring aliens in connection with two Indonesian servants identified only as "Tri" and "Ro."

If convicted on all charges, Al Jader would face up to 140 years in jail and up to $2.5 million in fines. *Reuters*

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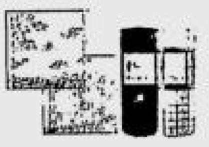
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# OPINION

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# Election and destiny

**EDITORIAL**

IT IS unfortunate that for all its apparent legal correctness, the 14-page decision of the Supreme Court throwing out the petition of Susan Roces to substitute for her late husband, actor Fernando Poe Jr., in his electoral protest is presaged by the most quoted passage from the medieval Persian poem, "The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam." While the inclusion of poetry in a legal document is refreshing, it also introduces an element of ambiguity that unleashes a flood of clashing interpretations.

"The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ,/ Moves on: nor all thy Piety nor Wit/ Shall lure it back to cancel half a Line,/ Nor all thy Tears wash out a Word of it." In the context of Poe's death and the flawed decision of his legal team to substitute his wife for his protest challenging the proclamation of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as President in the 2004 election, the lines may connote two complementary things: that Poe is dead, and there's nothing one can do about it; and that the substitution is a legal goner, and there's nothing one can do about it. Both are correct interpretations. There's no use crying over spilled milk, especially if one has spilled it twice.

But what is unfortunate is that the poetry has been violently insinuated in a context that is foreign to it. As those familiar with the "Rubaiyat" know, the lines are hardly about resignation, but about destiny. The lines cited by the Court comprise the 23rd stanza, and wrenched from the entire poem, it seems to have a meaning that could be twisted this way and that, as what the Supreme Court did in its decision. The real context—and meaning—of the lines are really established by the 22nd and 24th stanzas, the former opening with "'Tis all a Chequer-board of Nights and Days/ Where Destiny with Men for Pieces plays," and the latter closing with "Yea, the first Morning of Creation wrote /What the Last Dawn of Reckoning shall read."

It's quite obvious from the lines that the poem talks about destiny. So is the Supreme Court suggesting that Poe was destined to lose in the election and die protesting his loss, and that his wife was destined to be rejected in her attempt to substitute in his protest? Perhaps. But poetry does not a legal decision make. Our dear justices should dispense legal justice, not poetic justice.

So does the junking of the petition dispense legal justice? The immediate reaction from legal pundits is that the decision is legally sound and correct, jurisprudence having established that the substitute should be a "party of interest." Since Poe's wife is a private person, and not a candidate in the last election, she is not someone "who would be benefited or injured by the judgment," and thus is not "the party who is entitled to avail of the suit."

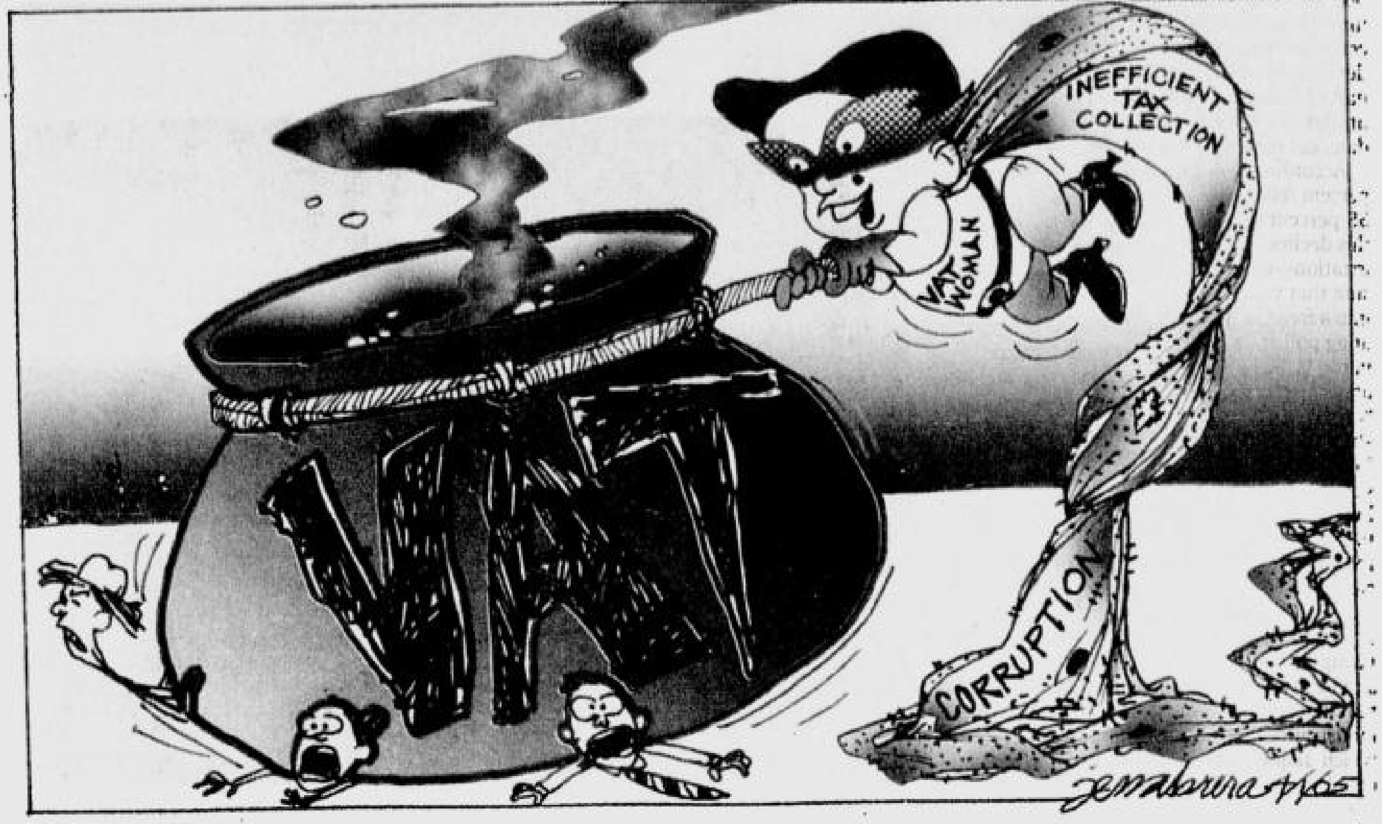
Moreover, it seems remote for any party of interest, like losing presidential candidate Panfilo Lacson or losing vice-presidential candidate Loren Legarda, Poe's running mate, or even Vice President Noli de Castro, to save the day for the electoral protest and contest the presidency of Ms Arroyo inasmuch as the deadline provided by the law for the filing of such a protest has lapsed. And even if Poe's side asks for a reconsideration or another chance for substitution, the Court is highly unlikely to change its mind. After all, the verdict was unanimous.

Therefore, as the Court upheld the constitutionality of Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo taking over President Joseph Estrada in 2001, it has upheld, by citing Poe's protest as without merit, the legitimacy of her victory in the 2004 election. She is the President, whether Poe's supporters like it or not.

It then behooves Poe's supporters to recognize not only the validity of the ruling, but also the legitimacy of the presidency of his political enemy. It would be a gesture of democratic sportsmanship. It also behooves the President to extend the hand of reconciliation to her political enemies as a gesture of democratic magnanimity.

The decision should also put a stop to the talk by retired generals like Jose Almonte and Fortunato Abat of setting up a military junta to replace what they perceive to be an ineffective government. The talk is subversive, and the generals are merely taxing the people's patience, aside from magnifying the widespread perception that the military gets special treatment in this country. Such talk is self-serving, vainglorious and selfish.

Ultimately, we should fix our electoral system. We should reform and computerize our elections. We cannot leave the fate of our democracy to destiny and poetic justice, even if the bench is filled with wannabe poets.



# Professors are victims of academe inbreeding

**AS I SEE IT**

*Neal H. Cruz*

WE will interrupt the series on the patent games being played by a cartel of multinational pharmaceutical companies victimizing Filipino patients to comment on the 11 University of the Philippines professors and the value-added tax bill that Malacañang wants Congress to pass.

This is being written a day before Congress is to begin its special session, and by the time you read this, the Senate would either have already passed the bill or adjourned without passing it.

My son and daughter-in-law are both graduates of the UP School of Economics, and I am proud of them. They are both very good professionals, but it doesn't mean that I agree with their professors, the so-called UP 11. Their Good Friday sermon that the VAT bill is the only salvation of the budget deficit has strengthened my long-held belief that most professors live in artificial worlds far removed from the real world. This belief has been prompted by what I know in my field, journalism. As a career journalist, I know that many journalism professors won't even make the grade as reporters in good broadsheets. The good journalists are too busy with their jobs to waste time teaching, so it is those who don't make the grade who are reduced to teaching. This is not only my opinion; ask any reputable working journalist and he will have the same opinion. (That is why I have rejected many offers to teach journalism.) If that is true with journalism professors, it must also be true with economics professors.

Many professors, whose only world is the academe are victims of inbreeding. They studied in the same schools, were taught by the same professors, read the same textbooks, usually talked only to one another, sheltered by the cocoon of the academe and are not in touch with the outside world, so they have the same ideas. They don't hear any contrary ideas. No wonder the UP 11 all think the same way, even if economics is not an exact science like mathematics, with differing economic theories espoused by different economic gurus.

The contention of the UP 11 that passage of the VAT bill, which will increase the VAT from 10 to 12 percent, is the only way to beat the budget deficit is faulty for two reasons:

One is that there are three ways to do it: increase collection, reduce spending, or a combination of both. Increasing collection doesn't mean increasing taxes only. It can mean more efficient collection of existing taxes.

The other reason is that the taxpayers will not accept any increase in taxes if they do not see any sincere effort by the government to reduce spending. That is the real world.

How can you make the people accept paying more taxes when legislators continue to appropriate for themselves billions of pesos in pork barrel, much of which just go into their private pockets? Why will taxpayers be willing to pay more when the President submits to Congress a budget that contains the hated pork barrel which is the top source of corruption in government? How can you make people pay taxes, taking from their hard-earned money that is not even enough for their daily needs, when much of these taxes would just be squandered as confidential or intelligence funds, representation expenses or travel expenses, vehicle or gasoline allowances, and to pay the drivers, bodyguards and other expenses of public officials? How can you make people agree to pay more when government officials and employees will be paid five days for working only four days?

The President says all must help and make sacrifices to bail the government out of its fiscal problems. But sacrifice is not a one-way street. Everybody must make the sacrifice, the government as well as the people—in fact, the government more so than the people because it was the government that put us in this predicament.

The government must first show that it is cutting expenses before it can ask the people to sacrifice and pay more. If the President had vetoed the pork barrel allocation and if Congress had cut the allowances of privileged public officials, then the public would be willing to make its own sacrifice. This fact the UP 11 did not see.

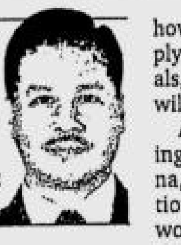
In the first place, our tax system is regressive, not progressive. Instead of squeezing the ordinary people more, the corporate income tax should be increased. But it had been reduced long ago from 70 percent to a maximum of only 30 percent. The salaried worker pays the same maximum income tax as the richest corporation making billions in profits, the same as the super-rich of the Philippines whom Forbes magazine listed as among the richest in Asia. Other countries have much higher maximum corporate income tax, why not us? Why did the UP 11 not see this?

The telecommunications companies are now the highest earning corporations in the Philippines, grossing more than San Miguel Corp. which used to be No. 1. Yet, all of them put together, pay less taxes than only one cigarette company, Fortune Tobacco.

Texting should be taxed, to be taken from the take of the phone firms, not from the people. As the texting capital of the world, that should rake in a lot of revenues for the government. That would also discourage much of the useless texting going on now. Why does Congress refuse to do that? Besides, the phone firms take advantage of their subscribers, charging them for a whole minute even if they use only 30 seconds, charging P1 for one text even if it is only one or two letters, such as "k" or "ok," or having a P30 load automatically expire in three days even if it is not used, with bigger loads expiring automatically in progressively longer days. Why did the UP 11 not see that?

# Rote-learning in schools: Asia's handicap

**PASSION FOR REASON**



*Raul C. Pangalangan*

THE FILIPINO fetish for diplomas is in full blossom once again in this season of school graduations. We are not alone. My own informal survey of Asian friends tells me that many other Asian cultures delight in these parchment proofs of erudition. Perhaps, that can also explain why study after study has shown that Asian students score better than American kids at standardized tests. But I have always looked askance at these bright dazzling statistics. If we're so bright, how come they're richer and seem to have more fun in life, and hey, how come they're the world's only remaining superpower?

I often hear on the radio a fine ad featuring a child's exasperated voice asking, *"Kailangan pa bang i-memorize yan?"* I have never been patient enough to listen to the rest of the ad to find out what it is selling, but it affirms what I have long suspected: that for the Filipino child, schoolwork is memory work. When my kids were younger, I was aghast to discover how much memorizing they had to do in school. It felt as if bright young minds capable of dreaming in vibrant colors were being bamboozled and forced to fit into an intellectual black hole that sucked all life out of them. Even the math that I found so fascinating as a kid was reduced to a game of memorizing each step in the process of, say, adding incompatible fractions: first, find the least common denominator; second, third, etc., instead of being a fun game played in the abstract world of numbers unconstrained by reality.

For Filipinos, as for many Asians, learning is about storing knowledge in the brain, not about imbibing new skills or imagining new ways to look at the world. But Einstein says, "imagination is more important than knowledge" and, I have been advised, you musn't let your education get in the way of learning. Here in the Philippines, we go for what is tangible, so to speak, something that can be labeled, something that can be recorded in a diploma. I have heard it said that creativity is far too amorphous to be valued, and far too much a luxury for a poor country like ours, which must focus on more basic needs. Well, sadly, the result is that we graduate smart alecks who can be total bozos in practical life, but are total superstars when it comes to regurgitating facts and data in an exam.

The foreign biographer of a Philippine president wrote this of his subject: "His greatest asset educationally was a formidable memory. His custom, from his earliest grades, was to read the textbook ... memorize it, and recite back its contents by rote all year ..."

The biographer continues: "The Philippine educational system encourages this routine .... The premium is upon memory ... because of their lack of [textbooks]." In the public schools of old, there was usually only one copy of the book for the whole class, which the teacher wrote on the blackboard for all to copy; and the tiny kid who memorized the whole darned thing was hailed as the town genius.

That reverence for rote-memory has no place in the modern world. Today, entire shelves of the library can be stored in one CD, which can be copied cheaply in another P10 CD. He who memorizes his textbooks deserves to be exalted no more than the fellow in "Ripley's Believe It or Not," who could recite entire telephone directories. The next time someone tells you he can recite the entire Revised Penal Code verbatim, buy his brain for P10, and with the change, enjoy a Big Mac with upsized fries and Coke (and smother your own brain with P50 worth of lard).

(We, the lay public, are equally guilty. We are thrilled when specialists talk jargon instead of actually explaining to us, hapless folk, how that gobbledygook from the books can apply to life. When talking to trained professionals, the less we understand, the more we are willing to pay.)

Another explanation is the Asian's lingering respect for the Mandarin tradition of China, and the strict system of imperial examinations. Transplanted into today's competitive world, children from struggling families need the hard evidence of talent and achievement in order to compete in the few available avenues for improving one's life. The pedigreed, those from the old families, all they need are their family names. The rest of us with obscure names, we have to work our butts off, and having fancy diplomas certainly eases the way.

How much longer can the Asian obsession for diplomas and exams survive the competition brought about by globalization? Will we leave innovation and imagination to America and Europe, and reserve to ourselves the downstream functions, indeed the "outsourced" menial work? Or shouldn't we in Asia start aspiring, ambitioning, for grander things? We, Filipinos, have a long way to go, considering that the Germans can produce a state-of-the-art Mercedes-Benz in a single day—from nuts-and-bolts all the way down the assembly line—yet it will take our Land Transportation Office more than a month just to get a plate number for that car.

Diploma fixation and the retention fetish bespeak a culture lacking confidence in itself, a culture that looks for the formal trappings of learning rather than for actual competence in work. This has fueled a whole explosion of degree-based requirements—where traffic police are required to have college degrees that will barely help them ensure that buses don't bully their way along Edsa—and rules laid down by bureaucrats who earlier in their lives were precisely those smart alecky kids who memorized everything the teacher said.

* * *

*Comments to raulcp@info.com.ph*

# An unsettling trend

**ANALYSIS**

*Amando Doronila*

FOR PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo, the worrisome thing about the March survey of Pulse Asia is that it shows a continuation of a downward trend in her public approval rating, starting October last year. The trend is more significant and unsettling than the plunge in her rating—38 percent, the lowest since she succeeded to the presidency after the fall of President Estrada in January 2001. Her election last May, which legitimized her government with an electoral mandate, did not seem to help her in this aspect.

According to Pulse Asia, her March rating of 38 percent fell from 41 percent in October and from 55 percent in June last year. The danger about this decline is that it puts pressure on the administration—to produce a dramatic counter-measure that would reverse the trend before it turns into a free fall with a dangerous potential for creating political instability. Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita had better offer something more reassuring than the statement that the slump was "expected." Although the administration does not show it is losing nerve and is taking the bad news in the chin—there can be no worse response than going into panic—the survey finding came at a bad time: just as the administration is struggling to break the stalemate in Congress over the VAT reform bill, the President's last hope in raising significant revenue for capital expenditure.

True, as Ermita said, governing a nation is not a matter of popularity and the government is not facing an immediate election. But certainly, the survey results reveal a hotbed of national discontent that could easily weaken the hands of the administration in pushing tough fiscal reforms which require further belt-tightening from the people.

It will be useful to identify the buttons that triggered the plunge in the President's approval rating, if only to locate where relief measures should be targeted.

The respondents gave the President a failing mark in 11 of 14 national issues, and she received the lowest mark (20 percent) in the matter of controlling inflation. The survey said "inflation is the national concern that most urgently needs the immediate attention of the administration, according to 45 percent of Filipinos." (It was noted that inflation—fueled by rising prices of electricity, fuel and food—jumped to 8.4 percent in February from 7 percent in October.) And more than 53 percent of the respondents thought that the administration's efforts in controlling the prices of basic goods were not enough.

The administration also received relatively weak ratings in the second and third biggest concerns of Filipinos—eradicating corruption, with approval rating down to 23 percent from 32 percent in October; peace and security, down to 31 percent from 44 percent in October. The less important concerns of Filipinos included poverty, economic recovery, low wages and fighting criminality.

The survey results were released immediately following the dismissal by the Supreme Court of the election protest of the late Fernando Poe Jr. Although the dismissal had only a small impact on enhancing the electoral legitimacy of the administration, the President's struggle to broaden her popular base and legitimacy lies in the field of addressing the most important source of unrest—inflation.

The survey also showed that in regard to quality of life, 45 percent of Filipinos expected their condition to be worse off next year, and 59 percent saw tougher times ahead. According to the survey, more than 60 percent felt that they were worse off now than last year, and 69 percent thought that the national quality of life deteriorated over the past 12 months.

But the picture is not entirely bleak for the administration. A redeeming survey finding shows that there are fewer Filipinos pessimistic about the national situation now than there were in October.

The decline in the number of people who are pessimistic about the national situation could have been caused by "the favorable news regarding the national economic performance last year and the strengthening of the peso (this quarter)," according to Pulse Asia. This finding lends credence to the administration's argument that an improvement of the economic growth rate would provide the economic environment from which the most pressing issues—such as inflation—could be attacked.

Non-government economists linked the pessimism to rising inflation. Fernando Aldaba, dean of the Ateneo de Manila University's Department of Economics, pointed out that "the benefits of economic growth do not really trickle down to most Filipinos."

Cid L. Terosa, of the University of Asia and the Pacific, talked along the same theme: "The basis for this pessimism is largely due to the high cost of consumer goods plus high utility costs." Pulse Asia found that although 69 percent of Filipinos believed that the national quality of life had worsened last year, this figure represents an improvement on last year's outlook—down from 78 percent in October. She, however, cited the prospects of further oil price hikes, which could fuel more increases in the prices of other basic commodities.

Benjamin Diokno, an economist who is with the University of the Philippines, discounted the findings of Pulse Asia on the level of pessimism as "inconsistent" with the 6.1 growth reported last year. "If we grew by so much then why do people remain unhappy?" he asked.

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# Visit to Silay

**AT LARGE**

*Rina Jimenez-David*

THOUGH I came back toward the end of March, Women's Month, it turned out that there was still time to take part in one last Women's Month activity, which is why I found myself Tuesday flying to Bacolod and thence to Silay City to take part in its "culminating" activity.

I went on the invitation of Silay Councilor Marie June Pavillar Castro, a friend and sister in Pilipina for many years. And as Mayor Carlo Gamban confided, never had Women's Month been observed with such frenzied energy as this year with Marie June, as chair of the committee on women and family, at the helm.

The event started with a "Women's Walk," with women from all of the city's barangays taking part, dressed in color-coded T-shirts. They promptly turned up the temperature at the city's civic center, as much by their burning enthusiasm as by their numbers. And there was certainly much to be enthused about. One of the highlights of the program was the unveiling of the floor plan and scale model of the Silay Women's Center, planned for completion within the year. A happy coincidence was that just a few days earlier, the Silay city government was informed that funds accessed through Abanse! Pinay were available for use in gender and development projects. Also a recent development was the completion of seminars on Gender Sensitivity and Gender and Development participated in by representatives of barangay councils and the various city departments.

There's more, it seems. Also launched were other projects spearheaded by the committee on women and family, including a "Search for the Outstanding Women in Community Development," which seeks to honor community leaders who have devoted their lives to bettering their neighborhoods; and the award for "Best GAD Practices," which is meant to encourage more creativity in the planning of community projects on gender issues.

* * *

**BUT the best part of the program was still to come. This was the competition among the various barangays in three performance categories: "*composo*" or original songs on this year's Women's Day theme of recognizing the role of women in nation building; "*binalaybay*," original rhyming poems very similar to the "*balagtasan*"; and skits.**

**The "*composo*" and "*binalaybay*" showcased the community women's vast stores of creativity, displaying flashes of humor as well as insight into the condition of women—or at least as much as my sensing of the Ilonggo lyrics and words could allow.**

**Even richer and more inspiring were the skits, all of which were based on real-life events. The storylines: A battered wife finally finds the gumption to hale her abusive husband before the authorities and finds herself frustrated at every turn; community women decide to pool their resources to come to the aid of a woman with an irresponsible wastrel for a husband; a woman passively accepts her husband's abusive behavior until her own children convince her to fight back. Get the drift?**

**The skits "entertained," not just because they sent the audience into gales of laughter or sighs of sympathy, but also because they illustrated the concrete experiences of poor women and poor communities, providing sobering footnotes to the celebration of the gains made by the women's movement. Indeed, much has been achieved, but still so much more needs to be done!**

* * *

I WAS quite happy to discover that another friend in Silay had made a return to politics in Silay. As Councilor Linda Caja told me, she had thought of renouncing politics after she lost in her bid for mayor, but was unable to resist the call of serving her townmates and so decided to run for councilor in last year's elections. Though she and Marie June are on opposite sides of the political line this time (Marie June was in Linda's lineup of councilors during Linda's mayoralty bid), Linda said that when it comes to advocating for women's issues, all the women in the council (the third is SK representative Carmela Ledesma) are united and cooperating with each other.

Mayor Gamban, Vice Mayor Jay Jalandoni and other members of the Silay Sanggunian met with us for lunch and dinner, taking the chance to explain their plans for what Jalandoni calls "the small but proud city of Silay."

There's a possibility, though, that Silay might soon transcend its reputation as a small and genteel city. For now, it's best known for its excellently preserved Spanish- and American-era homes and buildings, the luscious home-made native sweets and snacks, as well as the home of "El Ideal," the bakery that popularized such Negrense treats as *biscocho, banadas,* and *guapple* pie.

* * *

**SILAY is the site of the proposed provincial airport, which is being constructed with the use of Japanese development funds.**

**Arousing controversy, mainly because it would mean closing down the Bacolod airport, the new airport promises to bring in new investments and business opportunities to the city, though it could also potentially destroy the "essence" of Silay if airport-induced development is not carefully planned and regulated.**

**This is why it's admirable that this early, Mayor Gamban has already engaged the services of a noted urban planner, Nathaniel von Einseidel, whose wife hails from Silay, to prepare a growth and development plan to help minimize the unfavorable impacts of sudden growth spurred by the airport.**

**One last praiseworthy note on my visit to Silay: Performing at the Women's Month closing event was Silay's rondalla ensemble which has brought numerous honors to their city, including being the reigning NAMCYA champion. Dance numbers performed by elementary and high school students also proved that aside from cuisine, Silay can truly boast of talented youth.**

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# Against the changing of street names

**LOOKING BACK**

*Ambeth R. Ocampo*

THE E-MAIL response to my March 18 column on the changing of street names in Manila was very encouraging. Many readers expressed dismay over the frequent and often indiscriminate changing of street names by legislators. Others were kind enough to offer some suggestions.

But before we get worked up, Agnes Paulino e-mailed corrections to the column: "P. Leoncio was renamed Eduardo Quintos, not Antonio Quintos. Eduardo Quintos was the chief of police of the then Manila's Finest. His house is located in that street. Economia is now Vicente G. Cruz, not Manuel de la Fuente. Manuel de la Fuente is the name of the street that used to be called Trabajo. The names were interchanged in your article. Vicente G. Cruz, if I am not mistaken, is the father of retired Justice Isagani Cruz who also writes for PDI. They used to reside in Economia. That would explain how the street got its new name. Manuel de la Fuente was a former mayor of Manila."

We will forward these corrections to Dr. August de Viana of the National Historical Institute who provided the material for the column.

Miss Paulino then added: "Lawmakers might have changed some street names but it does not necessarily follow that these streets will be completely known by their new names. People will still say Buendia, rather than Gil Puyat, Pasay Road rather than Arnaiz, or for that matter, Pasong Tamo instead of Chino Roces. It only goes to show that these lawmakers have nothing better to do. When I go to Makati and I take the FX van, I usually tell the driver to let me off after Herrera Street and not Vicente Rufino. He might not know where Vicente Rufino Street is."

To make things worse, all these changes are not confined to the National Capital Region but happens all around the archipelago. Edgar G. Billones of Cebu reported on streets in Bacolod:

"One can understand the desire of some people to name or rename streets after heroes, political leaders, or even family patriarchs. I don't have much objection to that, much less care, as long as they don't take title to them. But the way the Bacolod City government has renamed some of its streets defies intelligence.

"Along Lacson Street (the city's main thoroughfare named after Gen. Aniceto Lacson who led a revolt against Spain) in what used to be Capitol Subdivisions, are side streets, numbered 1st to 27th. For more than half a century, it was very easy to find a specific street address; one simply had to count the streets in sequence. Until somebody, or some bodies, at city hall thought it was smart to change some of the names. Well, I can live with some changes, maybe be even comfortable with them. But the idea to rename a street after other major cities is—to be kind about it—addled. One street, for instance, has been named Cagayan de Oro City, another, Marikina City. Can you imagine your address listed as: No. XX Cagayan de Oro City St., Bacolod City? Now, that makes me squirm in my seat."

Dr. Manuel B. Datiles made two useful suggestions:

"Count me in as one in mind with you. These people who keep changing the names of the streets have nothing else to do and have no historical perspective nor love or respect for their country. These people they are using to rename the streets can be honored by naming new streets of which there are dime a dozen, rather than old established streets which means a lot to the people living in them.

"What Congress should do is enact a law that would require that the [majority of the] inhabitants of a street should first be asked to vote to change the name of their street before the name is changed, to make it harder for politicians to do this."

Susan Tan offered another suggestion worth a try:

"How about giving secondary honorary names to sections of long avenues and boulevards [which] is sometimes done in other cities and municipalities around the world? The original name of the street stays the same, but underneath a section from some point to another point, is a smaller secondary inscription dedicated to the honoree. For instance Taft Avenue in the section fronting De La Salle University might be called something peculiar to the school, if there are enough petitions to make it so. It gives some recognition to a personage but does not complicate or change the name of the street. Emblazoned above the honoree's name is the name of Taft Avenue, but in smaller type underneath is the secondary street name of the honoree."

I think the above has been done in Makati and some other places. Another practice is to cut long streets into sections and rename these after even more obscure people. Can you imagine Edsa being chopped up and portions renamed? Maybe we should look into repetition of names. Every province, city, town and barangay has a Rizal Street. This may be heretical, but can't we just have one Rizal Street per city or per given land area? What about other heroes?

How about renaming generic streets like the North and South Luzon expressways, the Skyway, or C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, and Elliptical Road after someone?

Then you have bridges, canals, flyovers, *esquinitas* in abundance, so why not leave current street names that have been in place for at least 10 years alone? We would appreciate more comments and suggestions.

* * *

*Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu*

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# Summers to remember

**PINOY KASI**

*Michael L. Tan*

SUMMER'S for the young, certainly, but the attention given to the kids shouldn't mean sacrificing the needs of the elderly, especially those around health.

Generally, the elderly are more vulnerable to the many health problems we have in the country—infectious as well as non-infectious (e.g., accidents). And when a health problem strikes, they suffer more and face more dire consequences. Simple respiratory ailments give way to pneumonia, diarrhea leads quickly to dehydration, a fall and a hip fracture leads to a life-threatening blood clot. Even loneliness and depression can be disastrous with the elderly.

I have put down some thoughts about the elderly's health concerns and what we can do to deal with those issues this summer.

### When foods poison

We fret about the elderly's dietary restrictions, trying to figure out low-sugar, low-salt, low-cholesterol, low-uric acid meals. That's all well and good, but we might forget that the food also has to be safe from poisons and bacteria.

I was at my parents' place shortly after the Tarlac spoiled spaghetti incident and by coincidence, they were also having a pasta dish. Fortunately, I was the first to dig in and immediately I could tell it had spoiled. It turned out my mother had bought the dish earlier that day and it had turned bad after sitting in the heat, first in the car and then at home.

It's tempting for the elderly to just order food from outside, but we have to keep reminding the elderly about the risks with such food: they tend to contain more of the unhealthy stuff (salt, sugar, etc.) and are more prone to spoilage.

Of course, home-cooked meals aren't totally safe either. Everyone in the household should be reminded about proper storage of food, including attention to expiration dates.

The risks of food poisoning are greater with the elderly because age blunts their senses of taste and smell. Again, recruit the help of their companions or caregivers at home to be more alert about testing food, whether home-cooked or bought from outside.

### Senior moments

The elderly's "senior moments"—lapses in memory—does affect food safety. I actually pity the elderly vendor who sold the pesticide-contaminated cassava in Bohol. I doubt that she deliberately laced the cassava flour with pesticides; it was more of carelessness combined with forgetfulness. Similar accidents could happen in our households so do check where food items are placed—kerosene stored in Coke bottles can end up being mistaken for cooking oil—and remind the elderly and their caregivers to be more conscious about the risks.

The senior moments can also be dangerous in the way they affect the elderly's use of medicines. The elderly are notorious for sharing prescriptions and medicines. Help them cut down on the medicines, and with what's left—there will be many, given the chronic ailments—find ways to make sure they don't under- or overdose. There are all kinds of pillboxes now on the market, with the day of the week marked on each little compartment to help Lolo and Lola remember if they've taken the day's medicine.

If the memory loss is more serious, you will need the help of a helper or caregiver. If there are none available, look for other ways to send reminders. In Britain, some hospitals now send out text messages to remind the elderly when a medicine is due. I think Smart now has a way of programming messages to be sent out at specific times.

If you have someone living with Alzheimer's, you may need to post "alerts" all over the house, for example, "Turn off the gas after cooking" over a stove. If your relative is prone to wandering off, make sure they always have adequate identification sewn into their clothing, a kind of "Please return to…" measure in case they're picked up by Good Samaritans. (And yes, they do exist; I'm amazed by stories from friends about how wandering Alzheimer relatives are returned to them by complete strangers.)

Again, remember the risks are greater during the summer. The heat is so problematic: at home, they're quick to dehydrate so make sure they're taking enough water and that you have enough fans or air conditioners. Now if they do wander off, the heat will be more dangerous than snatchers and kidnappers.

### Exercising away depression

Do avoid the temptation to sequester the elderly at home. Precisely because summer is so much for the young, the elderly may feel neglected and depressed, a condition worsened if they're kept in their rooms.

Recruit the young to take Lolo and Lola out for exercise. Even the disabled can and should have some exercise. There are many scientific studies demonstrating how exercise correlates with lower rates of coronary heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, some cancers, type 2 diabetes, osteoporosis and, of course, obesity. Besides improving physical health, exercise does wonders for mental health problems, with studies showing they are as good, sometimes even better (because of fewer side effects) than medicines for mild to moderate depression.

We know that physical activity actually creates a "high," making us feel good. Exercise triggers the release of chemicals called endorphins, which can block pain, reduce stress, enhance the immune system and, some claim, even slow down the aging process.

Exercise's beneficial effects also come about indirectly. Especially when done in groups, exercise helps build up social networks and support, as well as self-esteem and self-efficacy. Ballroom dancing does count as exercise and it's not surprising that it's so popular with the elderly, especially with the women. (But yes, do watch out for predatory dancing instructors.)

### Young for the old

If the kids complain that summer's boring, find ways to mobilize them to help out with Lola and Lolo, with food preparation, taking their medicines and the many other chores at home.

Ricky Reyes' "Ganda ni Lola" ads are wonderful, showing how Filipinos do encourage our Lolas to look good, feel good. When your kids need to go to the hairdresser, gently suggest they might want to take Lolo (yes, Lolos need to feel good, too) or Lola.

If your kids flee in despair every time Lola repeats her life story for the umpteenth time, encourage them to put the story on audio or videotape so next time she starts up, they can say, "La, we have it. Why don't I replay it for you?"

Alternatively, have the kids run through old photos with their grandparents and come up with a digital scrapbook—have them scan the photos and create slide shows on the computer, complete with a soundtrack where Lolo and Lola explain the pictures.

Seriously, your own grandchildren and great-grandchildren will appreciate all those digital memorabilia someday as valuable heirlooms, stories from Lolo and Lola's own youth, and of the many happy summers where young and old found time together.

# Best place for practice driving

I WAS watching my son playing a computer game where he was a car driver maneuvering through roads and difficult situations. I asked him if the game has helped him become a better road driver. (He just got his license.) He replied that it was the other way around. He said that driving through the streets of Tarlac, where traffic regulations are ignored and unruly motorists abound, has helped him become better at his computer game.

Indeed, what would be a better place to hone your driving skills than in Tarlac where tricycle drivers enter one-way streets? Or where jeeps and tricycles load and unload passengers in the middle of a very narrow street, or suddenly swerve to the right, anticipating a passenger?

It's in Tarlac where the routes are changed the next day, without warning; so a stretch of road may be one-way today and two-way tomorrow. It's also in Tarlac where you never know if the traffic light is functioning or not. There are days when buses are not allowed entry at certain hours, but it's a driver's guess—and yours—as to what those hours are. Exciting? Wait, until dark, when tricycles and "kuliglig" brazenly ply the highways without any lights. Isn't that supposed to be illegal?

But in Tarlac, legality is a personal point of view. In Tarlac, the streets are virtual obstacle courses, with kids darting across the streets, buses parked on narrow roads which are abundant in potholes and humps and, yes, people picking mangoes in the middle of the road! Truly, Tarlac can be marketed as an excellent place for practice driving, best for student drivers.

Now, if only taking road exams before being issued a license were actually implemented, Tarlac would be "the place." But then, again, that would mean disciplined motorists in Tarlac. So, where could kids practice so they could excel in computer driving games?

**—DITAS R. ROXAS,**
**F. Tanedo Sreet, Tarlac City**

# Conquer lies with truth

THE PHILIPPINE Center of International PEN views with extreme concern the attempts by the National Telecommunications Commission and the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas to curtail press freedom in the country by denying airtime to views critical of the current government.

We wish to remind these two bodies that Jose Rizal was executed by the Spanish authorities because he was falsely accused of being an armed revolutionary. Ninoy Aquino was accused by Ferdinand Marcos of masterminding the terrorist bombing of Plaza Miranda. Governments have historically silenced anti-government leaders by labeling them as terrorists and criminals.

We are not saying that we agree with what the New People's Army, the Abu Sayyaf and other anti-government groups are saying. But because we still believe that our country is a democracy, we will fight for their right to express their views.

We wish to remind President Macapagal-Arroyo that, were it not for the loud voices of the people against Marcos and Joseph Estrada, she would not be President today. We call on her to stop the NTC campaign to keep broadcasters from interviewing known leaders of anti-government groups. We urge the members of the KBP to reprimand their officers and to bring the organization back to what it is supposed to do, namely, to protect the constitutional right of media to air any and all views on any subject.

The way to fight falsehood is through truth, not through repression.

**—DR. ISAGANI R. CRUZ (on behalf of Philippine PEN members),**
**national secretary,**
**Philippine Center of International PEN, 531 Padre Faura,**
**Ermita, Manila**

# Wrong focus

FORTUNE magazine recently came up with the list of the 500 most wealthy persons in the world. Among them are three Filipinos. Were we surprised? Not really. We have known all along that our country is not a poor country. We are rich in natural resources, we are rich in human resources, we are rich in entrepreneurial skills and so many other resources of wealth.

So why are some legislators fighting tooth and nail trying to convince us that we need House Bill 3773 on the ground that it is the only way to alleviate poverty? Come on! It is time to wake up!

The reason why many people are poor is that wealth in the Philippines is not properly managed and put to good use, such that it benefits just a few but not the many. So it is a problem of management, not of population control.

Why is our government so fixated on reducing population, yet looks the other way when it comes to fighting corruption, improving education, developing the countryside so people are not forced to seek work in Metro Manila and swell an already overcrowded metropolis?

Are the efforts to reduce population just an excuse to cover up government's failure to solve the problem of poverty?

**—L. SASTRE,**
**Examiner, West Triangle, QC**

# Lesson from Camp Bagong Diwa

THE INQUIRER editorial on the Bicutan jail break says it all. (PDI, 3/16/05) Indeed, the prisoners succeeded in escaping trial. At the same time, their death provided a great relief for those who connived with the Abu Sayyaf in committing crimes. The government lost one more opportunity to know more about the terrorist group.

The use of assault by the government in the handling of the "crisis" was, indeed, questionable There was no hostage to speak of. What negotiation were the police authorities talking about when the prisoners being asked to surrender were all the time inside their respective cells? A simple order to vacate the area would have solved the problem. If no one had followed, the routine procedure of cutting electricity and water, including the mandatory padlocking of the area, could have been ordered.

Granted the inmates were able to grab firearms, still it would not have taken long for hunger and the mosquitoes to overwhelm them inside their small prison cell. In a day or two, the guns in their possession would have smelled and tasted like bread. No bloodshed. Pure psychology.

But that is not the way we seem to administer criminal justice here, especially on the matters related to corrections. The government still believes that prisoners are enemies who should be punished with extreme prejudice. If that is the case, let's do away with our jails and prisons. Why waste time and funds for prisoners if we can just shoot them down?

There is a lesson to be learned from the incident: We should establish a Department of Corrections to manage and administer all detention and correctional facilities in the country. Under this scheme, proper standards can be applied, discipline promoted and competence restored.

**—VEN JO TESORO,**
**professor,**
**Pamantasan ng Lungsod**
**ng Muntinlupa,**
**vjtesoro@yahoo.com**

# Adan can't be faulted

MAJ. Gen. Edilberto Adan may be faulted for his statement that sounds like a veiled form of media censorship, but his concern is legitimate. It is as basic as the claim of media—the right to spread the news. To my mind, the point Adan tried to raise is this: In giving air, print and viewing space to destructive thoughts of known terrorists, is the media, as an institution, part of the problem or part of the solution?

I leave it to the self-regulation aspect and the adherence to the Journalist's Code of Ethics of individual mediamen to ponder the question. But as a reminder let me stress that freedom, even press freedom, is not absolute. Freedom entails some built-in responsibilities, particularly to the different publics the Fourth Estate professes to serve.

On the one hand, the media are simply working in good faith as channels of communication and expression; but on the other hand they may have become unwitting partners in the promotion of terror, the terrorists and their twisted cause.

In the light of all these passing furor, I still have much trust in the Philippine press. I know that private media can distinguish the chaff from the grain—with or without Adan's admonition.

**—BONG PEDALINO,**
**information officer I,**
**Philippine Information Agency**
**(PIA)-Maasin City, Southern Leyte,**
**Area Coordinating Center (ACC),**
**Capitol Grounds, Maasin City**

# On Sen. Loi Ejercito's clash with US immigration

**VOICES ON INQ7.NET**

I AM appalled at how our own countrymen took things too far. I've been living in the United States for the past nine years, always hoping that our beloved country will be regarded highly once again.

Unfortunately, our people never fail to cause embarrassment to many overseas Filipinos because of pettiness and stupidity. The "great and honorable" (what a misnomer!) Loi Ejercito and some colleagues of her made an issue out of her "encounter' with airport security in the United States.

Last I heard, San Francisco International Airport is located in continental USA, and Loi is certainly not a member of the US Senate. So what if she gets treated like any other citizen in the United States? She certainly is not a US citizen either!

There are a lot of Filipinos working in US airports. I find it rather difficult to believe that no Filipino working at the San Francisco International Airport had heard about this or raised this issue with their respective supervisors.

What really stinks is that our own immigration officials chose to join the circus by frisking a respectable US diplomat who was in Manila for a stopover. He didn't have any intention of staying in Manila, but look at how we treated him? Foreigners must really be looking down on us.—**Alvin Cortez, 116 E. Jones Rd. Bldg., 130A Rm. 232, Edwards AFB, CA**

* * *

This has reference to the news report about the treatment given by a US Homeland Security operative to Sen. Loi Ejercito. Although Senator Ejercito is the wife of ousted President Joseph Estrada, still she deserves respect since she also represents the Filipino people.

I am just wondering why the Philippine Senate did not do anything to express its sense of collective outrage over the incident. I am quite worried: if the United States can do this to one of our senators, how much more to ordinary Filipinos?—**Arnel Cruzata-Bernales, Ortigas, Pasig City**

* * *

I don't blame the US Immigration officials for doing their job. Here in the Philippines, our politicians breeze through all the rules—for example, through checkpoints and traffic, in motorcades with sirens blaring. Our politicians don't know what an ordinary Filipino goes through when he or she travels. Have you ever been asked by a Filipino immigration official for "show money"? If you're Filipino and you're traveling to, say, Bangkok on a tour, our officials would ask you how much money you have. I wonder if they would do this to our politicians?

The last time a Filipino official's (Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia) family traveled to the United States, it was caught with $100,000 (undeclared). So can we blame the US immigration officials for doing their job? Remember, our country is the second most corrupt country in Southeast Asia.

Before Senate President Frank Drilon and Rep. Roilo Golez start woofing about how the United States should give them more respect, they would do well to bear in mind that the United States is not like our country where people wait on them hand and foot.—**Mark Cruz, Makati City**

* * *

The detention of Sen. Loi Ejercito tells more about Erap's personality. Perhaps, if she just answered politely and directly, it wouldn't have taken an hour.—**Isidra Santiago, Bulacan**

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# EU pins hopes on MILF peace talks

**A SOLDIER** uses his radio as they secure a captured camp of the Abu Sayyaf in Indanan, Jolo. Peace in Mindanao remains elusive despite continuing talks between the government and the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front. AP

**DAVAO CITY—The European Union is pinning its hopes on the peace process between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) to carry out more peace and development projects in Mindanao.**

First Secretary Frank Hess, head of operations of the EU delegation of the European Commission to the Philippines, said Mindanao has been among the EU's priority areas in the country. But the European Commission to the Philippines is interested in the peace process to determine how they can come in and assist, he said.

"The more that there is conflict in Mindanao, the more that it is necessary for the European development assistance to come in," he told the INQUIRER in the recent information drive in Davao City on EU funding opportunities for development projects in the country.

According to Hess, EU's grant commitments in Mindanao ran to a total of 10.55 million euros, or an equivalent of P760 million, in 2004 alone. Most of these projects were poured mainly in Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte for aid to people uprooted by armed conflict. Grant beneficiaries included the Citizen's Disaster Response Center (CDRC) and the UK-based Volunteer Service Overseas' project for peace.

Both projects were trying to integrate people displaced in the armed conflict back to their communities.

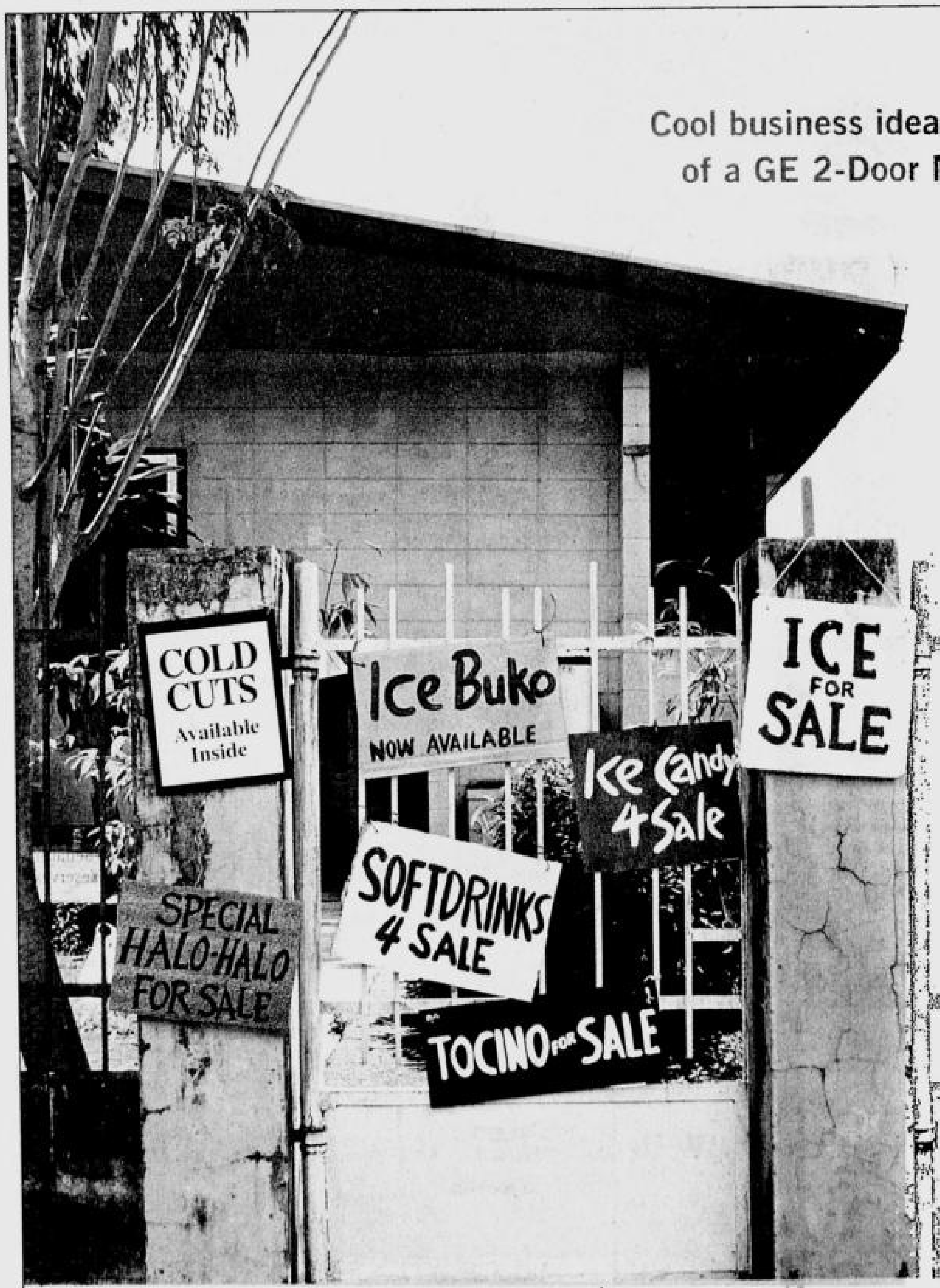
But Hess said most of the proposals submitted by Mindanao in the previous years failed to meet the EC requirements and were turned down. However, the quality of the proposals has so far improved this year, brightening the prospects of more Mindanao NGO and LGU projects that will be approved for EU funding this year.

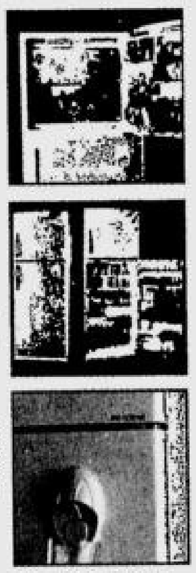
The Davao information session was the fifth launched by the EC delegation across the country to encourage non-government organizations (NGOs), civil society groups, non-profit organizations and local government units to avail themselves of existing funding opportunities from the European Commission, by giving them ideas how to access these funds.

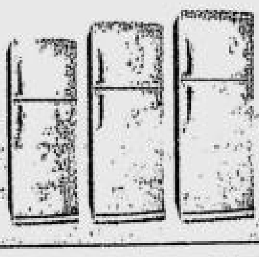
Priority projects include those that involve economic cooperation, the strengthening of civil society, democracy and human rights, development and rehabilitation, decentralization, gender and health; environment and energy, higher education and research.

Each NGO can avail itself of grants amounting to roughly P1 million to P30 million.

The European aid also seeks to help Filipino workers. *Germelina Lacorte and Nash Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau*







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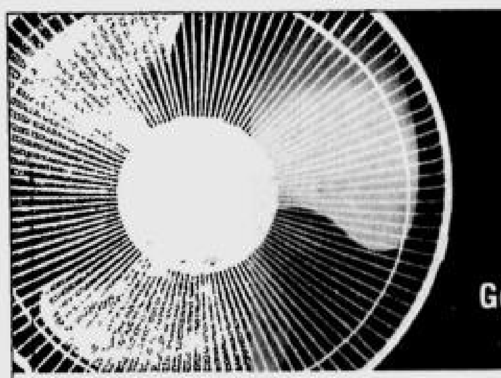

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# Mining firm bent on evicting 2,000 ex-workers

BAGUIO CITY—Philex Mining Corp. has given some 2,000 of its former workers from 15 days to the end of April to move out of their mining camp in Benguet, after they failed to obtain a court order restraining the company from shutting down operations.

But more than 2,000 retrenched employees, their families, as well as store owners and jeepney drivers of the firm's Padcal operations in Tuba and Itogon towns, have asked for a two-year moratorium instead to give them time to find new jobs, said Teresita Manzano, a former supervisory staff employee who spoke for the former workers.

Lawyer Eduardo Arasas, Philex counsel, said a local court had asked the firm and its former workers to agree on a suitable eviction time frame.

"But we are dead-set on [an eviction] for April, maybe on the 15th or towards the end of the month. Philex spends P3 million on electricity each month and P2 million on water just to keep the camp running and we can no longer afford it," he said.

But Manzano said the workers have asked for a two-year stay, and a waiver so their children can enrol in the St. Louis Elementary and High School here, which Philex administers.

She said the workers are willing to pay their way through the two years, including power, water and school bills now that they can no longer be subsidized by the firm.

But the workers refused to withdraw their complaint against Philex before the Benguet provincial board. Philex reportedly demanded the withdrawal in exchange for a moratorium.

Philex first incurred the ire of the board when it refused to enrol the workers' children in 2003 and 2004.

In an earlier interview, Eulalio Austin, Philex vice president for operations, said the firm could no longer afford the overhead expenses required to hire teachers to accommodate the dependents of former employees.

Austin again issued a memorandum barring the children of the former workers from enrolling for the 2005 school term, citing the same reasons.

The board is looking into the firm's disconnection of power and water services to some 100 former employees at the Padcal Camp early this year. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Group B (4 years old) – T, 1:00 - 3:30 pm
Group C (5 years old) – W, 1:00 -3:30 pm
Group D (6-7 years old) – Th, 1:00 - 3:30 pm
**No. of Sessions:** 12

**Nurture the Reader**
Facilitated by The Reading Teachers (TRT)
**Venue:** Fully Booked, Powerplant Mall, Rockwell
**Schedule Options:**
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Group B (4 years old) – April 5-30, TThS 10:00 -11:30 am
Group C (5 years old) – May 2-21, MWFS 10:00 -11:30 am
Group D (6-7 years old) – May 2-21, MWFS 2:00-3:30 pm
**No. of Sessions:** 12

**Nurture the Artist**
Facilitated by Art Adventures
**Venue:** Art Adventures, Studio 116, VA Rufino St., Makati City
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Group B – 9:00 -10:30 am
Group C – 11:00 -12:30 pm
Group D – 11:00 -12:30 pm
**No. of Sessions:** 12

**Nurture the Dancer**
Facilitated by the Claravall Dance Studio (an affiliate of the Royal Academy of Dance, London)
**Venue:** Claravall School of Classical Ballet Teoville 3, Sucat, Parañaque City
**Schedule Options:** MWF
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Group B – 10:00 -11:00 am
Group C – 11:00 am -12:00 nn
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**Nurture the Singer**
Facilitated by the Center for Pop Music
**Venue Options:** Center for Pop Music Branches
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- Quirino Highway, Lagro, Quezon City -MW, 10:30 - 12:00 nn
- McArthur Highway, Malolos City - WF, 10:30 - 12:00 nn
- McArthur Highway, Valenzuela City - TTh, 10:30 - 12:00 nn
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**No. of Sessions:** 12

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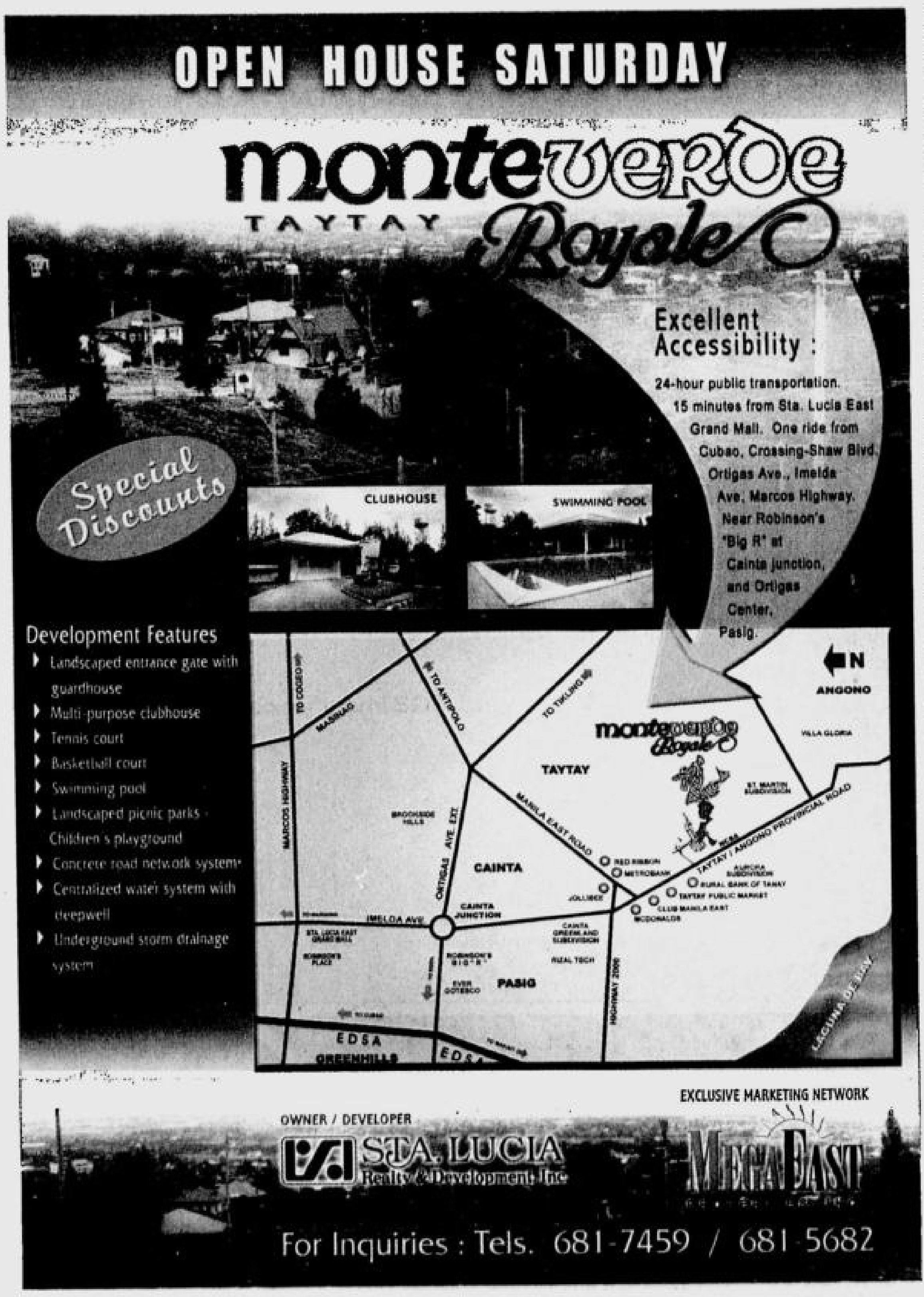

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# 3 Japanese lead bike for peace, justice

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—All on bicycles, three Japanese and 60 Filipino peace activists will retrace beginning Thursday the 104-km route of the infamous 1942 Death March from Mariveles, Bataan, to Capas, Tarlac.

Pedaling side-by-side, the activists' common aim is to seek justice for Filipino comfort women and World War II veterans, and the rejection of an "unfair" trade deal between their countries, according to the event's organizer, the Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya.

Ichiro Hirata, Susumu Omori and Shigenobu Kodama passed this Pampanga capital on Wednesday en route to Mariveles, the site of Kilometer Post Zero.

Sixty-three years ago, 200,000 Filipino and American soldiers were forced to walk from Mariveles to Capas. Almost half of them died of hunger, fatigue and untreated wounds. Thousands more died at the Camp O' Donnel in Capas.

The three Japanese have been peace pilgrims in the Philippines since 1995. They belong to the Santama Peace Cycle Network, one of the biggest and most active peace advocacy groups in Japan.

"A time for healing and action towards genuine world peace," was the theme they bandied on streamers as their 2-km convoy passed this city.

According to Hirata, peace still remains "elusive" to comfort women and veterans, now at the twilight of their years, even after World War II ended six decades ago.

This was because "economic and political aggressions by the United States and Japan have replaced military wars," he said.

Omori said: "We, as enlightened Japanese people, are gravely sorry for the atrocities committed by our ancestors to the Filipino people during the war. This year's activity seeks not only to remember the atrocities of World War II but also to campaign to work towards peace for the lingering sufferings of survivors of the war."

He said he will relay Santama's apology to war veterans and their families they will meet in at least eight stopovers.

Malaya Lolas—grandmothers who as young girls and adults were sexually and physically abused by Japanese soldiers in Mapanique in Candaba, Pampanga, in 1944—sent the bikers off from Manila where the six-day journey in three Central Luzon provinces began. The cycling event will cover Bataan, Pampanga and Tarlac.

"The trauma, the humiliation and the pain do not make us sleep peacefully," said Lita Vinuya, 68. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

**TERROR BOAT** AP

**Lt. Gen. Alberto Braganza (right), chief of the Southern Command, and Commodore Rufino Lopez, Southern Philippines naval chief, inspect a speedboat soldiers seized from suspected members of the Abu Sayyaf in Zamboanga.**

# New head of Leyte water firm named

**By Joey A. Gabieta**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

TACLOBAN CITY—The impasse at the Leyte Metropolitan Water District (LMWD) ended on Wednesday when Leyte Gov. Jericho Petilla named a new general manager of the water firm.

Petilla designated engineer Rogelio Dacurro, assistant manager of the LMWD, as officer-in-charge, replacing embattled Ranulfo Feliciano, in a bid to end the conflict at the LMWD.

"We are hopeful that everything will now return to normal at the LMWD. Our main objective in naming engineer Dacurro is for the services rendered (by LMWD) to continue uninterrupted," Petilla told the INQUIRER.

Under the LMWD charter, the governor has the authority to name the general manager and the five members of the board of directors of the water firm, the biggest in Eastern Visayas.

Ricky Palencia, secretary of the Leyte Metropolitan Water Employees Association (LMWDEA), welcomed Dacurro's appointment and assured that the union members would immediately leave the LMWD office.

"Our only demand was for Feliciano to step down as he was holding the post illegally," he said.

"We want to return to work. We have been out of work for six months now and of course for the business operations of the LMWD to return to normal," he added.

The business operations of the LMWD had been paralyzed since Tuesday when about 50 LMWDEA members occupied the LMWD business office on Mabini Street here.

The union members invoked the Feb. 28 decision of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) that the appointment of Feliciano as LMWD general manager was without any legal basis because it did not pass and was not approved by the commission.

The CSC maintained that all officers of the LMWD, including Feliciano, must pass through the commission, since the water district is a government-owned and -controlled corporation.

The union took the CSC decision to mean that Feliciano had no authority to dismiss 26 of its members in October last year for holding a rally to press for their benefits.

The LMWDEA has 105 members out of the more than 500 personnel of the LMWD. The water firm has more than 25,000 concessionaires.

PO3 ABEL Arreola receives full honors during his burial at the Margaay Cemetery in Margaay, Narvacan, Ilocos Sur. Top PNP officials and the governor of the province gave tribute to Arreola, praising him for sacrificing his life. But his family continues to grieve. While saying they appreciated the honors that Arreola received, they were said that it had to be "this way."

LEONCIO BALBIN JR./PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

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# Cop who died at Bicutan jail siege buried a hero

NARVACAN, Ilocos Sur—The lone fatality on the government side during the siege of the Bicutan jail on March 14 and 15 was buried a hero on Wednesday at the Marga-ay Cemetery here.

Political leaders here likened the 25-year-old PO3 Abel Peña Arreola to his Biblical namesake who was killed by his jealous brother.

In a fitting gesture, Director General Arturo Lomibao, Philippine National Police chief, promoted Arreola by two ranks from PO1, when he died, to PO3.

Arreola is a member of the Special Action Force which stormed the Bicutan jail after Abu Sayyaf leaders, Commanders Kosovo and Global, killed three jail guards and held other prisoners on March 14.

"He and the others saved my life in a way. After us, they came and that's when he died," Lomibao said in Ilocano.

## Sacrifice

During necrological services at the Santa Maria town plaza, Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson said the tragedy at the prison siege where 23 detainees, including leaders of the Abu Sayyaf, could have been worse if not for Arreola's sacrifice.

Lomibao also said during the service that it was an honor for the PNP that "a brother in arm would shed his own blood in an honorable death for the cause of the Filipino people."

"He died fighting the way he was trained to fight. His death is similar to losing one's son to defend our name and homeland," Lomibao said.

The police gave a 21-gun salute at the stroke of noon even as hundreds of Arreola's townmates in Sta. Maria attended the burial.

## Gun salute

His father, Abelardo, said that Abel, the youngest of his three children, already wanted to be a police officer even when he was in high school.

"We are grateful that he made us proud but not like this way," the elder Arreola said.

The siege of the Bicutan jail also led to the killings of the detained Abu Sayyaf leaders who were declared martyrs by their fellow terrorists. *Frank Cimatu and Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

# GMA refuses to declare Mt. Province peace zone because of NPA threats

SAGADA, Mt. Province—President Macapagal-Arroyo said she is not in favor of declaring Mt. Province as a peace zone as most towns in the province are still threatened by the communist New People's Army.

"Sagada is a peace zone. There is still an NPA threat in other parts of Mt. Province," the President said during a press briefing here last week.

In September 2003, former Bontoc Mayor Louis Claver sought the help of Ms Arroyo in making the whole of Mt. Province a peace zone as residents of Barangays Mainit and Dalican had been adversely affected by the military combat operations against NPA rebels reportedly operating in the two villages.

Claver said residents complained that the prolonged armed conflict between government troops and NPA rebels had economically dislocated them.

But Ms Arroyo expressed willingness in maintaining Sagada as a peace zone.

A local government official said the President's non-declaration of the whole province as a peace zone should not dishearten the communities clamoring for peace.

He said the concerned communities should decide if they wanted to establish the province as a peace zone because they were the ones affected by the skirmishes between the military and the NPA.

"If they (communities) feel that they have the capability to declare the whole province as a peace zone then they can do that. And those elders who earlier proposed to the province about the peace zone have already expressed that it is already official. The important thing is they have the capacity to declare," the official told the INQUIRER.

Mt. Province Gov. Maximo Dalog said the province was happy that Ms Arroyo had recognized that Sagada was succeeding as a peace zone.

But Dalog said he hoped certain villages in the towns of Bontoc, Barlig and Bauko—the main stakeholders of the proposal—could be declared as peace zones.

"The conflict between the military and the NPA is so intense that we need to do something drastic. But I hope we can have a dialogue between these two contending parties to prevent more fighting," Dalog said.

In 2003, elders of Mt. Province clamored for the declaration of the whole province as a peace zone after clashes between the military and the NPA claimed 10 lives.

Aside from Claver, the dialogue was initiated by former Mayors Thomas Killip of Sagada and Estanislao Fagto of Sadanga town and Vice Gov. Anthony Wooden.

During the dialogue, Killip shared the experience of Sagada during its turbulent years in the 1980s and early 1990s when many residents fled because of the incessant fighting between government soldiers and NPA rebels.

As a peace zone, Sagada does not allow combatants from both groups to enter the town and fight each other. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

# ARMM gov defends education official

COTABATO CITY—Autonomous Region Gov. Parouk Hussin defended an education official in the region, who is among those blamed for unremitted government insurance premiums.

Hussin said the non-remittance of the premiums and loan payments of teachers to the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) was not the fault of Leovigilda Cinches, acting secretary of the Department of Education in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (Dep-Ed-ARMM).

"(Blame) former DepEd officials for the difficulties that you (teachers) bear," Hussin said.

But records from the GSIS here indicated that the DepEd-ARMM has yet to remit its premium deductions from teachers since Cinches assumed office in May last year.

Cinches assumed the post from ARMM Vice Gov. Mahid Mutilan when he ran but lost in the Lanao del Sur gubernatorial race in the May 2004 elections.

GSIS records also showed that under Mutilan's tenure as DepEd secretary, the ARMM failed to remit over P200 million in teachers' premium deductions to the GSIS.

In Basilan, public schoolteachers claimed that the ARMM government has not only failed to remit their GSIS premiums but also their PagIbig contributions and their Philippine Public School Teachers Association (PPSTA) dues.

Edgar Tago, administrative officer at the DepEd-Basilan, said the non-remittance of their premiums and dues started in October 2002.

"We already sought legal action, because our officials refused to give clear and direct answers," Tago said.

He said that during a dialogue with Olivia San Pablo, chief accountant of the DepEd Central Office and Edwin Romero, accountant of DepEd Western Mindanao, no explanations were provided as to why their premiums and dues have not been remitted.

Tago said Romero simply said that he would return the unremitted amount by June 30.

"But it's not enough, we need an explanation as to why they did not remit our contributions since it was deducted from us every month," he said.

Lourdes Evardo, president of the Basilan Teachers and Employees Association (BTEA), said because of the non-remittance of their premiums, they have not availed of any loan from the GSIS since.

She said they could not also depend on their salaries because of delays.

Evardo said that when the checks arrive, some teachers could also not encash it because the banks would refuse to honor them.

"Some of our teachers' pay checks are bouncing checks," she said. *Nash Maulana and Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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# 15,000 cops dedicated to secure IPU meeting

From page A1

PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil told reporters that no "specific threat" had come from any "threat group," but aired an appeal particularly aimed at the New People's Army to help ensure a peaceful assembly and thereby prove the communist-led group's patriotism.

"Let this be an undertaking that will make us proud to be Filipinos," Bataoil said. "The NPAs, for example, say they are patriotic. This is a time for them to prove their being Filipino. If this turns out to be a secured activity, it will be part of Filipino pride."

## No bail for suspect

But Razon said terror suspect Tyrone "Daud" Santos, who was jailed for alleged illegal possession of explosives, would pose a threat to the IPU assembly if he is allowed to post bail. *(See story on Page A6.)*

"He is a threat because he is part of the group that intended to bomb Metro Manila," the NCRPO chief claimed. "We would assume that [the group's members] are not backing out of their plan. They would still continue with it, so we should be watchful and alert to prevent their plan from happening."

Razon said that even if Santos had posted bail, "we won't let him go that easily; we will place him under surveillance."

He took advantage of the occasion to push for the passage of an antiterror law, saying current laws were not equipped to handle terrorists or suspected terrorists.

"This should be a wake-up call for all of us," he said of Santos' ability to post bail. "This is an indication of the lack of an effective antiterrorist law. We are fighting terrorism using [only] the Revised Penal Code. That is why we can only charge terrorists with illegal possession of explosives or firearms."

## Protests for Poe

PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao called on supporters of the late Fernando Poe Jr. not to hold protest actions near the PICC on April 3-8.

"We have appealed to our people, be they with the opposition or otherwise, to consider this big event. Let us all go for one national spirit so that we would [look] good in the eyes of the world," he said.

On Tuesday, the Supreme Court sitting as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal dismissed Poe's electoral protest as well as the appeal of his wife, Susan Roces, to substitute for him.

Poe's supporters had subsequently said they might have run out of legal options and could take to the streets to express their disappointment.

Lomibao said that while he hoped no incident during the IPU assembly would put the Philippines in a bad light, the PNP had prepared for protest actions.

"If they have permits, they'll be allowed [to hold a rally], but then again they should not infringe on the rights of others," he said.

But Razon said he would allow Poe's supporters to protest in the streets even without a permit "as long as it is within the bounds of law—no destruction of property, no injury to persons, and no impediment to traffic."

If these requirements are met, Poe's supporters will be allowed to "exercise their freedom of assembly and right to speech," he said.

## Maximum tolerance

Actually, the PNP is already preparing for massive protest actions by Poe's supporters, Razon said.

"We already have preparations for that," he said. "Our policy will still be maximum tolerance."

Razon also said he did not think the enemies of the Arroyo administration could take advantage of the situation: "Our people know. They are aware of the issues, and they're not that easily swayed."

He said the NCRPO had about 500 civil disturbance management members, who would be augmented by a contingent from the Armed Forces' NCR Command.

## Bay area

The Coast Guard has beefed up security on Manila Bay because a number of the hotels where the delegates are billeted as well as certain tourist spots that they may visit are in the area.

"We have increased the number of patrols. These will stay throughout the duration of the assembly," said Commodore Wilfredo Tamayo, chief of the Coast Guard's NCR office.

Tamayo said the Coast Guard would also deploy quick-reaction teams and sea marshals in the bay area.

Despite the absence of concrete threats, the PNP will strive to ensure that no untoward incident will mar the six-day IPU assembly, Bataoil said.

He called on the people to help in securing the event by informing police about any suspicious person or activity.

But apart from security, Bataoil said, the people could help make sure that Metro Manila remained clean for the assembly by sending text messages to the PNP's 2920 number about piles of trash or traffic obstructions.

He said the PNP would inform the local government unit of the matter for quick action. *With a report from Leila B. Salaverria*

# Pope's 'living will' wants life support to the end

From page A1

Thomas Reese S.J., editor of the Jesuit weekly America in New York. "It would be very difficult to unplug him if it came to that." Increasingly popular in the United States, a living will is a written statement adults make to indicate whether they want doctors to use all means possible to keep them alive at life's end or to let them die if all hope of recovery seems lost.

As the Schiavo case shows, modern medicine can extend basic body functioning for years—a worrying prospect for the world's largest church if that means its elected-for-life leader is incapacitated indefinitely.

The Catholic Church has traditionally taught that doctors and families could end artificial life-extending measures in good conscience if a dying patient's prospects seemed hopeless.

## Against 'culture of death'

John Paul, who has long railed against a "culture of death" he saw in abortion and artificial birth control, surprised moral theologians in a speech in March 2004 by insisting Catholics can no longer make such decisions even in extreme cases.

"The intrinsic value and the personal dignity of every human being does not change no matter what the concrete situation of his life," he told doctors and ethics experts attending a Rome conference about patients in a vegetative state.

"The administration of water and food, even when provided by artificial means, always represents a natural means of preserving life, not a medical act," he said. Denying them this treatment would amount to "euthanasia by omission." "Considerations about the 'quality of life,' often actually dictated by psychological, social and economic pressures, cannot take precedence over general principles," he said.

## Theologians' dilemma

John Grabowski, associate professor of ethics at the Catholic University of America in Washington, said the Pope had made his views clear but "left many theologians scratching their heads." The problem was that he expressed this in a speech, not in a doctrinal document that made it official Church policy.

"The Pope can say any number of things but he has to tell the bishops' conferences when they have to change something," added Father James Keenan S.J., ethics professor at Boston College. "He hasn't done this."

As a result, he said, the US bishops' conference and the Catholic Health Association have not renounced the more flexible earlier position even though many Catholic leaders support Schiavo's parents' demand to continue feeding her.

"We've spent centuries letting people figure out how they want to go to meet God, and now we have these fairly intrusive claims on a patient," Keenan said in his critical assessment of how the Pope was changing Church teaching on the end of life.

"It doesn't seem good for the Church to rethink how to die when the Pope himself is ailing," he said. "The dying of a Pope should not set our agenda. *Reuters*

# Brain-damaged Terry Shiavo dies as US Supreme Court rejects parents' plea

From page A1

they were denied access by Michael Schiavo. They are in there now, praying at her bedside."

Thirteen days after her feeding tube was disconnected, Shiavo's parents had endured two more legal setbacks in their fight to keep her alive when the US Supreme Court and a federal appeals court refused to intervene.

The rulings Wednesday came as Schiavo began her 13th day without food and water. She was expected to survive one to two weeks after the tube was removed by court order March 18. Her husband, Michael Schiavo, insisted he was carrying out her wishes by having the tube pulled.

Prospects for a legal victory had grown increasingly slim for Schiavo's parents, Bob and Mary Schindler, who disputed that their daughter was in a persistent vegetative state, as court-appointed doctors had determined.

"She is demonstrating an amazing sparkle and desire to live," David Gibbs III, who represents the Schindlers, said Wednesday. "I would say she looks pretty stable compared to the last couple of days."

As for the next legal steps, Gibbs said: "It appears that will be the last legal appeal at this time, unless something comes up."

The Schindlers maintained that while Schiavo was weak, her organs were functioning Wednesday and she was responsive. "I'm asking that nobody throw in the towel as long as she's fighting, to keep fighting with her," Bob Schindler had said.

Felos declined to comment.

## Seven-year case

The case had spent seven years winding its way through the courts, with the Schindlers repeatedly on the losing end. The nation's high court on Wednesday declined to intervene for the sixth time. Hours earlier in a 9-2 ruling, the 11th US Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta declined to grant a new hearing in the case—the fourth time since last week that it ruled against the Schindlers.

Federal courts were given jurisdiction to review Schiavo's case after Republicans in Congress pushed through unprecedented emergency legislation aimed at prolonging her life. But federal courts at three levels had rebuffed her parents.

The Schindlers had asked the 11th Circuit and the Supreme Court to order the reinsertion of their daughter's feeding tube immediately so a federal district court could review the case from its beginning, including whether there was enough "clear and convincing" evidence that she would have chosen to die in her current condition.

The Schindlers' motion included arguments that the 11th Circuit in its earlier rulings did not consider whether there was enough evidence that Terri Schiavo would have chosen to die.

## Terri's choice?

But appeals court judges Gerald Tjoflat and Charles R. Wilson, the same two judges who also issued dissenting opinions last week when the full court considered the case for the first time, said the harried pace of appeals made it impossible to determine if state courts properly considered the evidence.

The Supreme Court's decision to reject the appeal was expected and came without comment. Not only had justices repeatedly declined to intervene in the Schiavo case on previous occasions, but they routinely deferred to state courts on family law issues.

Judges in various Florida courts had sided with Schiavo's husband since she suffered brain damage in 1990, when her heart stopped for several minutes because of a chemical imbalance apparently brought on by an eating disorder.

Her parents doubted she had any end-of-life wishes and said she laughed, tried to speak and responded to them when they visited the hospice. *AP and AFP*

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## *PDI Reader's . . .*

From page A1

(SEC), Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima confirmed the other day.

Palabrica yesterday said he had not received official word from the pertinent government bodies—Malacañang, the Department of Finance or the Securities and Exchange Commission—on his appointment.

Palabrica will be the fourth SEC commissioner replacing outgoing Commissioner Fe Gloria whose term expired on March 11.

Palabrica will join a cast of lawyers and financial experts led by SEC chair Fe Barin.

Those also currently serving as commissioners are Joselia Poblador, Juanita Cueto and Jesus Martinez.

Outgoing Commissioner Gloria had put in 14 years as commissioner and, on April 11, would have served the government and the SEC for 33 years. She started out in the corporate regulatory agency as a research attorney shortly before martial law.

### Corporate sector

A graduate of the UP College of Law, Palabrica was for 20 years connected with the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) where his last position was as first vice president for legal affairs and assistant corporate secretary.

He also served as director, legal counsel or corporate secretary for various PLDT subsidiaries until 1999.

### GMA's office

That same year he joined the office of then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as chief of staff and general counsel until March 2000.

In April 2000, he was named INQUIRER's general counsel and Reader's Advocate.

Palabrica ranked 7th in the UP College of Law graduating class of 1972.

# Now, it's Noli vs Loren in poll protest

From page A1

guard the ballots and count the election returns, a process ignored during last year's canvassing.

"Those, I think, are victory," she said.

Legarda expressed sadness over the dismissal of Poe's case but said his lawyers still had an option left, which was to file a motion for reconsideration.

"The dismissal of the FPJ case won't affect my protest case because these are two different cases. In fact, my case has been found to be substantial [in form]," she told reporters at the opening of the two-day conference of Southeast Asian Parliamentarians against Corruption at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City.

### Misappreciation

Legarda had claimed that there were errors in the figures in the election documents, and that there was "mis-appreciation" of ballots and actual cheating in the May 2004 elections.

The PET ordered Legarda to "specify within 10 days from notice the three provinces best exemplifying the manifest errors alleged in the first part of her protest, and the three provinces best exemplifying the frauds and irregularities alleged in the second part of her protest."

It also gave the Commission on Elections 30 days to submit the "official project of precincts" of the May polls.

Khan said that with the ruling, the PET could now proceed with the verification of the supposedly spurious election documents and ballots.

He said the process started yesterday. "If we stick to the schedule, it would not take more than a year to resolve the election protest," he said, adding that this could happen if there would be no prolonged debates and the lawyers did not resort to delaying tactics.

### P500 per precinct

Khan said the review of votes and the deliberations will be closed to the public and the media, and would be conducted at the Supreme Court premises.

Legarda will have to pay P500 per precinct reviewed, he said.

When the ballots and documents are in by early May, the PET will form a revision team to "go over the disputed statement of canvass and certificate of canvass" to see if there is basis for the election irregularities claimed by Legarda.

This process will take about 180 days, after which the PET will deliberate and debate the issue.

"The PET will decide according to the evidence at hand," Khan said.

Asked whether the PET, after having affirmed Legarda's protest, could then tell De Castro to step down, Khan said this might not immediately happen because the Vice President could still appeal the matter before the high court itself.

**WOMAN OF THE HOUR,** former Sen. Loren Legarda, whose electoral protest has been given due course by the Supreme Court, joins her former colleagues like Sen. Juan Flavier during the opening of the Southeast Asia Parliamentarians Against Corruption meet. JESS YUSON

But this is a "gray area" because the PET is also made up of the justices, Khan said.

"We are treading on an unfamiliar territory," he said, adding that the high court had not yet told any President or Vice President to step down.

### No jurisdiction

Three months ago, the PET junked De Castro's petition to nullify Legarda's election protest on the ground that it had no jurisdiction over the issue.

He filed a motion for reconsideration, which the PET denied with finality yesterday.

The ruling came a day after the PET voted unanimously to dismiss Poe's case against President Macapagal-Arroyo, saying that no real party had come forward within the period allowed by law "to intervene in this case or be substituted for the deceased protestant."

The justices also denied the petition of Poe's widow, Susan Roces, to substitute for him, pointing out that she was not "the party who would be benefited or injured by the judgment, and the party who is entitled to avail of the suit."

De Castro said Roces' defeat was "just and fair."

He called on Poe's followers to accept the PET's decision, saying it would be best for all parties.

In his case, De Castro said he continued to have faith in the judicial system and promised to abide by the legal and constitutional processes.

"I believe that Loren and I have the same objective—for the truth to come out," he said.

In her petition for a recount, Loren had claimed that massive fraud was committed in the counting of the votes in the vice presidential contest, thereby changing the actual results of the election.

"It is important that the people should know the true results of the presidential and vice presidential elections last year because everything that is happening now is connected with what happened [then]," she said.

"This is not just my personal fight. It has gone beyond me and FPJ," she added.

### Nene's challenge

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr. advised Roces and her lawyers to file charges against those who had carried out the supposed massive fraud in the presidential election.

"I would now want to challenge and urge Susan and her lawyers to run after those who manipulated the results of the elections. And we have a basis for that," he told reporters.

Pimentel said the voluminous evidence presented by Poe's camp in his electoral protest could be used in the prosecution of election officials, political operators, uniformed men and individuals who took part in the "systematic cheating."

"If and when Susan and her colleagues would pursue the criminal cases against the cheaters in the last elections, there is nothing personal for them here. All they can achieve is to help cleanse the electoral process for the good of the people," he said. *With reports from TJ Burgonio and Cynthia D. Balana*

# Honesty normal thing to do for 2 Naia janitors

From page A1

ipino wife who were passengers of JAL flight JL 745 from Narita, which arrived at about 10:40 p.m. on March 29.

The couple had inadvertently left the bag in their seat in the business class section of the aircraft.

Pelaez, "Mang Romy" at the airport, immediately turned over the bag with its valuables to the JAL Passenger Service Section.

The couple, who JAL officers declined to identify for their protection, went to the airline's office at the Naia on Wednesday to inquire if the money had been found.

It was handed over to them intact.

### Faith in the Filipino

At the JAL office yesterday, Pelaez, 46, told reporters that returning the money was the right thing to do.

"(He) exemplifies a rare breed among men—providing a proud moment that restores our faith in the Filipino," JAL said in a statement.

Cris Zenarosa, JAL deputy station manager, said that the airline would definitely reward Pelaez for his honesty.

Pelaez earns the daily minimum wage. He is employed by DIARS Co., a contractor which provides the airline with maintenance people.

Pelaez has been working as a janitor and messenger since 1982.

### 23 pieces of jewelry

In another case of honesty, 44-year-old Nita Ramos, a janitress of PRC Management System, turned over pieces of jewelry she had found at the Manila Domestic Airport yesterday noon.

The jewelry cost an estimated P150,000 to P200,000, according to Nemencio Bawalan of the Investigation and Intelligence Division of the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa).

Ramos found a red jewelry box containing 23 pieces of jewelry such as gold and silver rings, in the pre-departure ladies room of the domestic airport at around 12:30 p.m.

Bawalan said airport officials would turn over the jewelry to its owners once they come forward and present proof of ownership.

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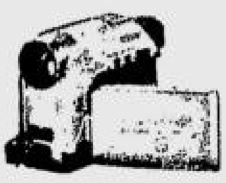

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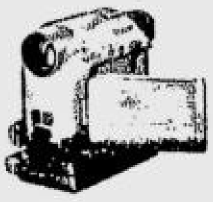

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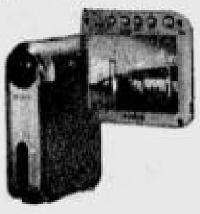

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# Solon's plea: No to more new holidays

By Philip C. Tubeza

WITH the government's four-day workweek all set to be implemented, a lawmaker yesterday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to stop declaring more special non-working holidays.

Marikina Rep. Del De Guzman urged the President to scrap the policy of declaring more holidays since the country already had 11 legal holidays and three national special days every year.

De Guzman said that about 203 million man-hours were being lost while companies were paying employees an estimated P5.08 billion for every non-working holiday.

The figures were based on the 1.4 million members of the Government Service Insurance System and 24 million members of the Social Security System multiplied by eight working hours, he added.

De Guzman said the 11 regular public holidays were January 1, New Year's Day; movable dates for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday; April 9, Araw ng Kagitingan; May 1, Labor Day; June 12, Independence Day; the last Sunday of August, National Heroes Day; movable date for the end of Ramadan; Nov. 30, Bonifacio Day; December 25, Christmas Day; and December 30, Rizal Day.

He added that the country also observed three special holidays: August 21, Ninoy Aquino Day; Nov. 1, All Saint's Day; and Dec. 31, New Year's Eve.

The other non-working days are Feb. 25, the Edsa I anniversary; election day in the month of May; half-day on Holy Wednesday and Black Saturday; half-day on December 24; and another day specific to a locality for the commemoration of the foundation of a municipality, city or province, he said.

De Guzman said he had filed House Resolution 29, which seeks a moratorium on the declaration of additional holidays.

During a House hearing on the resolution last month, Esther Guirao, deputy executive director for the National Wages and Productivity Commission, said that non-working holidays had adverse effects on the economy, such as forgone production of economic goods and lost wages.

He said daily wage earners also stood to lose due to the "no work, no pay" policy of companies.

Board of Investment official Sandra Recdizado said holidays disrupted the operations of companies, particularly those in the export-oriented manufacturing industries in terms of delivery and other aspects of production.

She said employers also incurred additional costs, such as overtime pay for workers, who had to work beyond office hours during non-working holidays to meet deadlines.

Earlier, Malacañang explained that the holidays, including the recently approved 4-day workweek, were part of a government campaign to promote local tourism.

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# Pasig opens new ₱142-M, 2-lane bridge

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

FOR BREEZIER travel.

This is the promise of the new Sta. Rosa Bridge inaugurated yesterday morning to connect Barangays Bagong Ilog and Sta. Rosa in Pasig City.

The bridge, which city officials say spans the Pasig River near the junction of the Marikina and Napindan Rivers, serves as an alternative route to take pressure off Vargas Bridge and the intersection of C5 and Pasig Boulevard Extension.

"We hope the new bridge will reduce by 50 percent the number of vehicles passing over traffic-prone Vargas bridge," Mayor Vicente Eusebio told the INQUIRER yesterday.

## Busy intersection

Vargas Bridge leads to the busy Kapasigan Area, particularly the intersection of Pasig Boulevard Extension and Dr. Sixto Antonio Avenue. It is also a key route to City Hall.

The Pasig Public Information Office said motorists coming from Pasig Boulevard or C5 wanting to take the new bridge may enter Dr. Maximo Flores Street.

Vice president Noli De Castro and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chair Bayani Fernando also attended the inauguration of the bridge.

Construction of the P142-million span began March 5, 2003. It was completed last March 15.

The new bridge is 284.6 meters long and 10 meters wide.

## Bliss groundbreaking

Later yesterday, De Castro led the groundbreaking ceremony for the planned Eusebio Bliss Village III in Barangay Maybunga.

The Vice President is also the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council chair.

The city government with the private group Gawad Kalinga plans to erect several five-story buildings to accommodate 1,700 families.

It is projected to be completed by June 2007.

Gawad Kalinga is the socio-civic arm of the Catholic lay group Couples for Christ. *With a report from Rio Ribaya*

# Boy dies after fall from QC hotel window

By DJ Yap

A 12-YEAR-OLD boy fell to his death 12 floors from the window of a hotel Wednesday afternoon in Cubao, Quezon City.

Rhielnan Joseph Zapra, a grade-school pupil, died instantly after he fell from the 12th and top floor of Fernandina 88 Suites Hotel on P. Tuazon Boulevard in Cubao, according to a police report.

Grace Lyn Cabuyao, a housemaid, told police she was busy in the kitchen of Room 702 on the hotel's seventh floor, where the victim's family was billeted, when the boy told her he would be going up to the 12th floor.

## Loud thud

Moments later, Cabuyao said she heard a loud thud.

She dashed to the window and saw the boy's body on the ground outside, police said.

Two room attendants rushed the boy to the Quirino Memorial Medical Center, but he was declared dead on arrival, police said.

Investigators said the boy's mother refused to have her son's body autopsied, and forbade Cabuyao to make a formal police statement.

But police said they would continue investigating the case.

# Discounts for early bird taxpayers no major loss

**By DJ Yap**

QUEZON City loses millions of pesos every year in discounts it grants to early bird taxpayers, according to City Treasurer Victor Endriga.

Last year alone, discounts rewarded to taxpayers who settled their obligations early amounted to almost P200 million, he said.

But the amount should not be considered a loss because the discounts served as an effective means to promote the benefits of paying taxes early.

If you were to write it off as a loss, it would be negligible because the money from the early payers goes immediately to the city coffers, said Endriga.

Some P90 million was written off as discounts for real property taxes, while about P100 million was discounted from business taxes last year.

City Ordinance 1081 mandates a 20 percent discount to real-property taxes paid annually before the March 31 deadline. A 10 percent discount is granted to real property taxes paid earlier than the quarterly deadline.

On the other hand, City Ordinance 1086 provides for a 10 percent discount to taxpayers who settle their business taxes annually before the January 31 deadline. The ordinances first took effect about three years ago, said Endriga.

In a statement, Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. expressed a preference for rewarding prompt taxpayers over encouraging delinquents with tax relief measures.

The city government does not favor giving an amnesty to tax delinquents because it is unfair to those who settle their obligations early, said Endriga.

In 2003 and 2004, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry named Quezon City the Most Business Friendly City.

# Smoke gets in Makati officials' watchful eyes

**By Jocelyn R. Uy**

ABIDE by the rules or face closure.

This was the warning of the Makati City Health Department to owners of eight business establishments in the city who had allegedly allowed customers to smoke in non-designated areas.

Seven restaurants and one cocktail lounge located at the Ayala Center, Arnaiz Street, P. Burgos Street, Dian Street, and Brgy. Guadalupe Nuevo are being closely monitored by city health inspectors and members of the Anti-Smoking Task Force, said Dr. Ma. Lourdes Salud, city health officer, according to a report sent to Mayor Jejomar Binay.

Managers of the establishments had also been sent written warnings after the city health office had received reports of violations of the ordinance.

Binay said the local government would not hesitate in closing down establishments which ignore the warning.

"Business owners and operators in the city must realize by now that we are serious in pursuing our campaign to make Makati a 'smoke-free' city," Binay said.

Five restaurants had already been ordered closed by the city for violating the ordinance that imposes a city-wide ban on smoking in all forms of public vehicles, and in enclosed public places where persons other than smokers could be exposed to cigarette smoke.

Establishments found tolerating smokers despite being classified as "smoke-free" by the City Health Department would be subjected to closure and the revocation of their business permits.

However, hotels, malls and restaurants could put up smoking areas provided that permits from the City Health Department are secured first. So far, the department has granted 178 permits for designated smoking areas to operate in five-star hotels, malls, restaurants, bars and corporate offices in the city.

# Fire Prevention Month ends with 3 fires

**By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.**
**and Jocelyn R. Uy**

FIRE Prevention Month ended on an ominous note yesterday with three fire incidents in Metro Manila.

A one-hour fire razed 30 houses on Barangay Santulan, Pasig City yesterday, leaving three persons hurt.

A kerosene lamp left unattended was being eyed as the cause of the fire, city fire investigation chief Roberto Samillano said.

The fire broke out about 2 a.m. yesterday at the second floor of a house occupied by four families in Paseo De Animales Street.

Three children were sleeping in the room where the fire started.

The children, left behind by their parents who attended the wake of a neighbor three houses away, could have fallen asleep without turning off the lamp, investigator FO1 Salvador Norberte also said.

Though the families living on the ground floor had electricity, the family upstairs had no electric connection, Samillano said.

The lamp, which was on top of a plastic cabinet, could have accidentally fallen to the floor, the investigator explained.

When they saw the fire, the children's parents Toto and Liza Undrada rushed to their house to save their three children.

But in the process, Liza suffered second degree burns in her right arm while Toto sustained second degree burns in his face, Norberte said. Nicolas then immediately took his family outside the house.

Fire fighters had a difficult time getting near the burning houses because of the narrow road and the presence of worried residents who had clogged the street.

At least P2 million worth of property was lost in the fire.

Meanwhile, a a burning bus plying the Fairview-Baclaran route stalled traffic along Edsa at 9 a.m. yesterday on the north lane of Guadalupe Bridge, Makati City.

The fire that ate up a Pascual Liner bus was caused by a short circuit, said Makati fire chief Supt. Arsenio Tabajonda.

The passengers were able to get off the bus before it was engulfed by the fire, Tabajonda said.

No one was reported hurt in the fire which was put out after 15 minutes.

Shortly, another fire broke out in the stockroom of a certain Mr. Lim on Benito Hernandez Street, corner F.B. Harrison, Pasay City.

The fire originated from burning garbage and dried leaves from a backyard near Lim's stockroom.

Fire investigators said the fire spread easily because the stockroom's wall was made of wood.

**MIXED FEELINGS**
A group of children can't seem to wait for a neighborhood halo-halo vendor to prepare the iced dessert, a Filipino favorite during the summer months. JOAN BONDOC

# Manila treats women to livelihood exhibit

**By Tina G. Santos**

ENDING the celebration of International Women's Month, the Manila City government yesterday held a fair and trade exhibit that showcased programs and services for women and children.

At least 50 nongovernment, as well as government departments, joined the day-long event dubbed "Manila Women NGOs at Work Fair."

Highlights of the fair included demonstrations for possible livelihood and business opportunities, such as meat slicing and processing, cooking, noodle making and interior design.

"These NGOs, work closely with the city government in looking after the welfare of our women and children so we decided to organize this fair and trade exhibit," Mayor Lito Atienza said.

Aside from the main exhibit, participants also enjoyed a day of fun and learning from various seminars given by experts in their respective fields.

Seminar topics included solo parenting, responsible parenthood and family planning, and violence against women and children.

The fair culminated with a fashion show, singing contest and NGO presentations.

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## METROBRIEFS

### 'Not guilty'

SIX SEXY starlets popularly known as "Baywalk Bodies" yesterday pleaded not guilty to the grave scandal charges filed against them for allegedly going topless during a pictorial in Roxas Boulevard last year. Only six of nine accused starlets appeared in court during the arraignment in the sala of Metropolitan Trial Court Branch 11 Judge Casiano Anunciacion Jr. They were Ma. Erica Davantes, Katrina Santos, Ma.Theresa Medalla, Dianne Marie Santos, Millena Villaruz, and Karen Carillo. *Tina G. Santos*

### DE reunion

FORMER employees (editorial, production, advertising, administration) of the defunct Philippine Daily Express (PDE) are requested to register their names with the Organizing Committee for the 2005 Daily Express "Alumni" reunion chaired by San Fernando, La Union Mayor Mary Jane C. Ortega, former PDE comptroller.The lunch reunion is scheduled for Saturday, May 7, at the National Press Club's Bulwagang Plaridel. It will be the Daily Express' 33rd Anniversary. Other officers and members of the Organizing Committee are: NPC Vice-President Alice H. Reyes, Vice-Chairman; Remy Bicomong, Manila Bulletin, Treasurer; Ching Alano, Philippine Star, Secretary; and Millet Mananquil, Phil. Star, Ella Buenaventura, Jun Engracia of Daily Inquirer, Bert Cuevas of Manila Standard Today, designer Danny Franco, Lydia Santos, Ricky Lo, Evelyn Diao, Manila Times' Bess Zamora, Philip de Belen, Nap Cruz, and former Candaba Mayor Babes Evangelista, members. Malaya Executive Editor Enrique D. Romualdez is the Reunion Committee's Adviser.

### Consal meet

THE CONSAL XIII Executive Board is set to convene its Second Meeting on April 2-4, at the AIM Conference Center in Makati City. Consal was established in 1970 for librarians and information professionals in Brunei Darrussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

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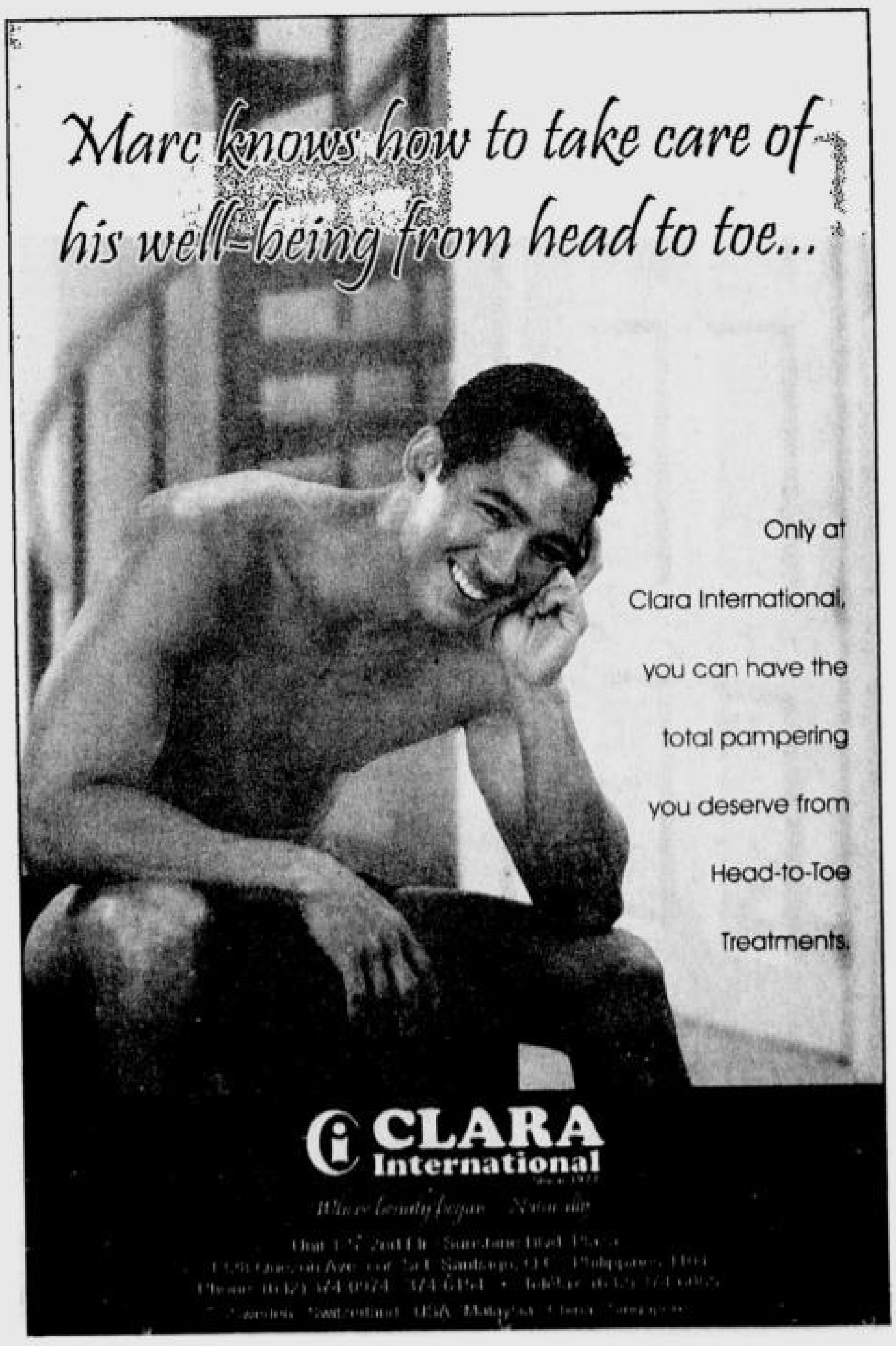

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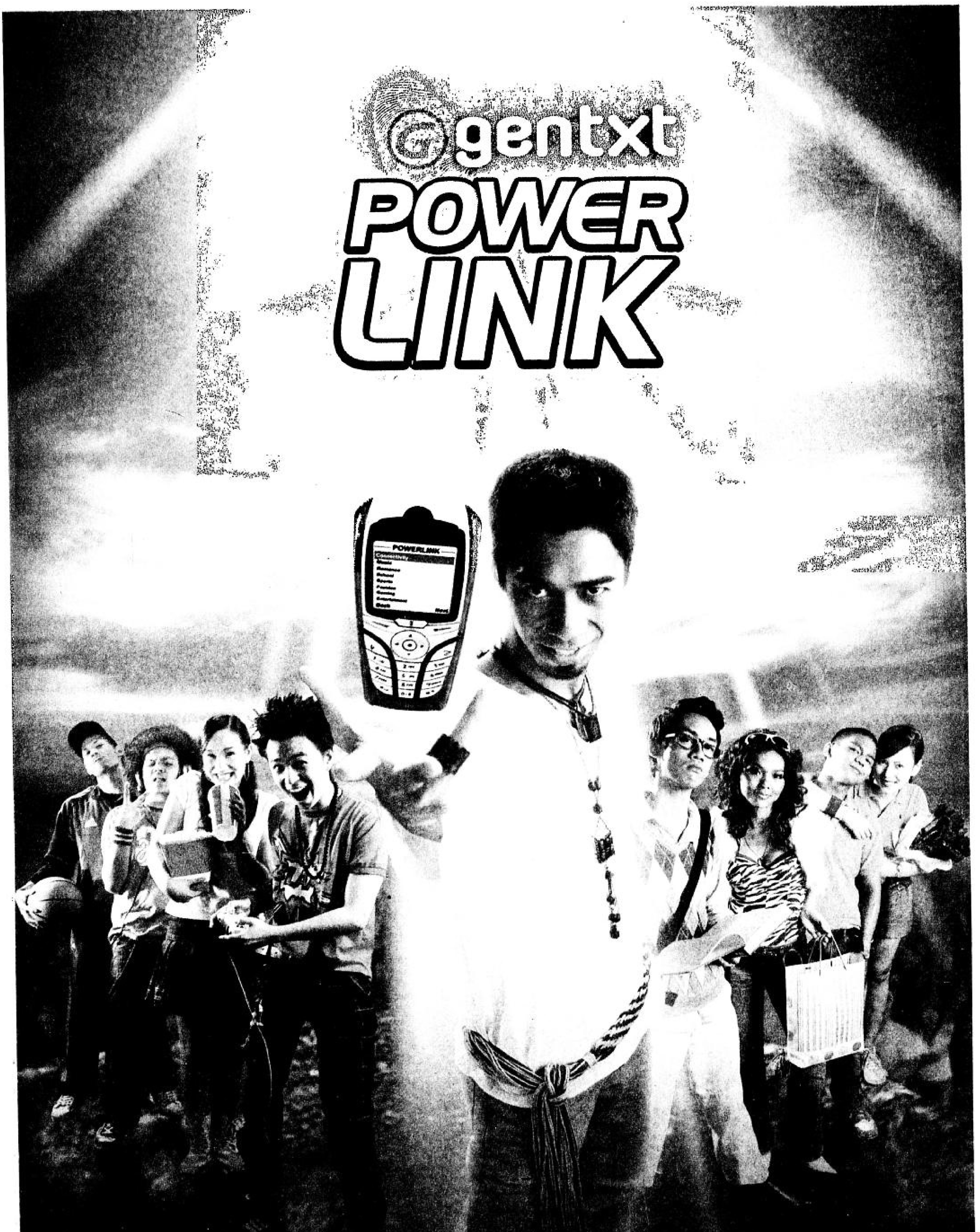

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# SPORTS

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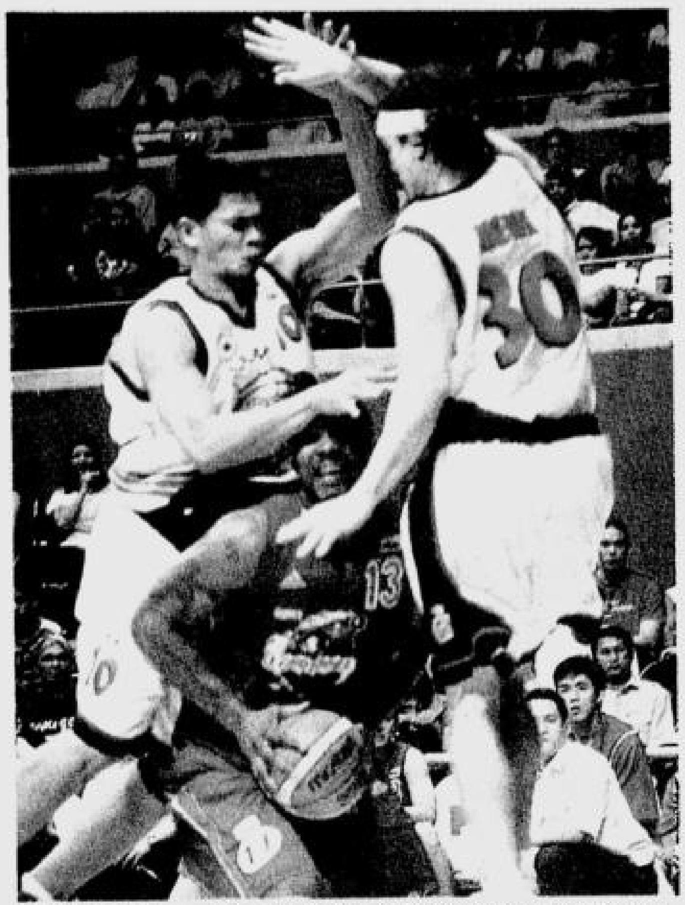

**PUREFOODS** import Antonio Smith gets tag-teamed by the Ginebra power duo of Romel Adducul (left) and Eric Menk (right). AUGUST DELA CRUZ

# Phone Pals tame Aces

**GAMES TODAY** *(Araneta Coliseum)*
4:45 p.m.—Shell vs San Miguel
7:35 p.m.—Red Bull vs SLR

**CAGAYAN DE ORO—Losing Noel Felix to foul trouble wasn't much of a hindrance for Talk 'N Text as the Phone Pals turned back the Alaska Aces, 97-92, in the 2005 Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference last night at the Xavier University Gym here.**

Mark Telan joined hands with Yancy De Ocampo and Willie Miller right after Felix committed his sixth foul on Dickey Simpkins midway in the pivotal period as the Phone Pals escaped with their second win on the road for a second-running 3-1 record.

Telan bungled his free throw on what could have been a three-point play off Reynel Hugnatan but scored on the Phone Pals' next two possessions, including a slam on a fast-break feed by Jimmy Alapag that pushed them ahead, 84-82, less than three minutes left.

The Phone Pals fell behind by as many as 17 points, 54-71, but erased the deficit on Felix's efforts which were sustained by Telan. De Ocampo and Miller finished off the Aces with a pair of three-pointers down the stretch.

Telan and Miller paced the Phone Pals with 20 points apiece while Victor Pablo and Alapag finished with 13 points each.

De Ocampo's triple made it 87-82 before he fouled out with 1 minute and 45 seconds to go. Simpkins flubbed his charities and Miller sank another trey on the other end as the Aces went on to absorb their fourth defeat in five games.

Cariaso had 23 points but failed to sustain his offensive fire in the final period, allowing the Phone Pals to foil the debut of Simpkins, who played alongside Michael Jordan with the Chicago Bulls.

Meanwhile, coach Leo Austria is very much concerned about Shell's staying power following an energy-sapping encounter against Coca-Cola the other day.

That's because the Turbochargers will clash with the well-rested San Miguel Beermen today at the Araneta Coliseum.

"I hope we could still come out strong after that Coca-Cola game," said Austria. *June Navarro*

**Scores:**

**TALK N TEXT 97**—Miller 20, Telan 20, Pablo 13, Alapag 13, Felix 11, Carey 11, De Ocampo 6, Belano 3, Camaso 0, Fran 0, Ravena 0.

**ALASKA 92**—Cariaso 23, Simpkins 21, Hugnatan 15, Cablay 8, Thoss 8, Hawkins 6, Cortez 5, Allado 4, Wilson 2.

**Quarters:** 22-29, 38-43, 57-71, 97-92

# Cuban coach returning to polish local fighters

THE AMATEUR Boxing Association of the Philippines got a much-needed shot in the arm when the Cuban Sports Ministry or Cubadeportes finally gave the go-signal for Cuban national coach Raul Fernandez Liranza to return to the Philippines and assist local coaches in training the national pool of boxers.

This was bared yesterday by Cuban Ambassador Jorge Rey Jimenez and Abap president Manny T. Lopez who, as early as last year's Athens Olympics, has been communicating with the Cuban government for the services of Liranza.

"The return of Raul will be a big boost in our preparations for the coming Southeast Asian games which the country will host in November," said Lopez. "And with him around, we could also augment our ongoing program for the 2006 Qatar Asian Games and the 2008 Olympics in Beijing."

Liranza, whose Cuban wards—heavyweight Odlanier Solis Fuente and light flyweight Bhartelemy Varela—bagged the gold medals in the Athens Games, has had stints with the national pool in 1995-96 and 1999-2000.

Lopez said Liranza's familiarity with the Filipino pugs and the locals' familiarity with him will be the main ingredient in forming a good team.

Liranza was instrumental in helping Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco win a silver medal in the Atlanta Olympics.

Lopez said that on Sept. 17 last year, he requested the Philippine Sports Commission and Cuban Boxing Federation for a Cuban consultant and that the Abap proposal was approved by then PSC chair Eric Buhain.

WHAT'S INSIDE
▨ Suns claim Pacific title /A28

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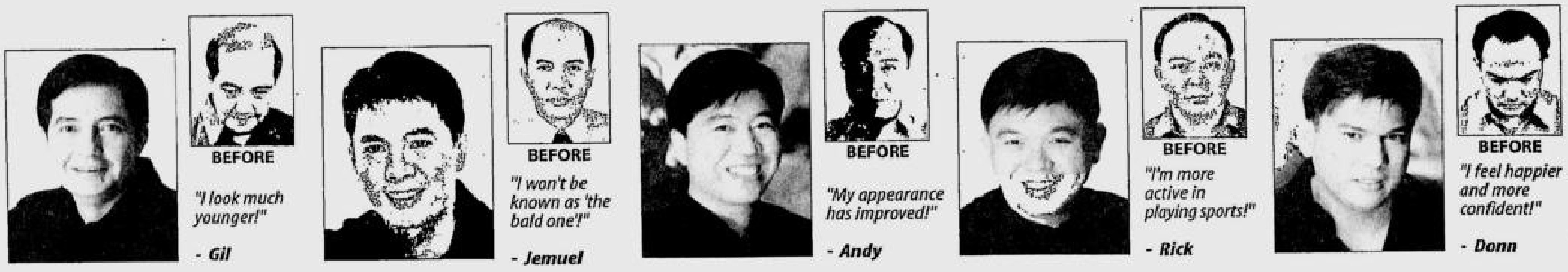

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# FG Foundation releases ₱3.7M

**By Marc Anthony Reyes**

THE FIRST Gentleman Foundation will release today a total of P4.2 million training fund for athletics and karatedo, FG Foundation executive director Tessa Mangahas announced yesterday.

Mangahas said they have already disbursed about P2 million to different national sports associations for the athletes' foreign exposure in their preparation for the 2005 Southeast Asian Games.

Athletics, which won the most number of gold medals for the country the past two SEA Games, will get P3.7 million as it begins its massive overall title campaign in the SEAG slated Nov. 27 to Dec. 5.

Karatedo will receive P500,000. Last week, archery got P560,000, pencak silat P600,000 and velodrome cycling P300,000, among others, for tune-up tournaments here and abroad.

Track and field is hoping to win at least 15 gold medals this time after bagging nine and eight golds during the 2001 Kuala Lumpur and 2003 Vietnam Games, respectively.

Mangahas said support continues to pour in for the "Medalyang Ginto, May Laban Tayo" program of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

So far, she said, they have raised P160 million which will be used solely for the training of the athletes.

# P. Princesa stages 6th Karagatan fest

AS PART of its efforts to promote Puerto Princesa City as the country's premier sports destination, the Puerto Princesa City government, headed by Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn, will launch the sixth Karagatan Festival on April 29-May 1.

An annual undertaking by residents and officials of Barangays Napsan, Bagumbayan, Simpocan and Bacungan, the Karagatan Festival will be held at the Tangkawayan Beach Coast in response to the mandate of Presidential Proclamation No. 57 declaring the month of May as "Month of the Ocean."

"Everything is ready," said Mayor Hagedorn, who is organizing the event with Manuel "Boy" Macasaet and motocross legend Edward "Butch" Chase.

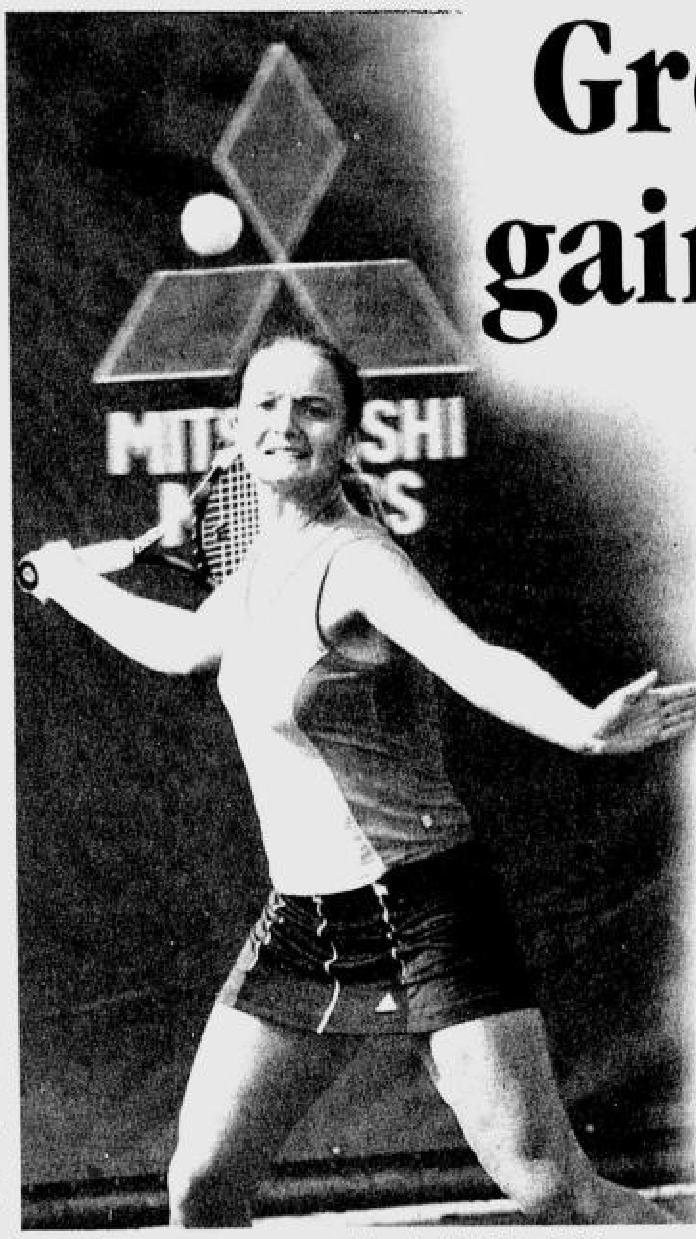
Chase said he expects more foreign visitors to watch the festival.

He said Smart Mobile Tower would provide everyone with access to any part of the country.

The three-day festivities will include mountain bike race, motor boat race, marathon, swimming, beach volleyball, bikini competition, fishing contest, kite-flying competition, sand sculpture, tug-of-war, coastal cleanup, tribal dance contest and concert.

## Cavite joins NBC preseason series

THE CAVITE team of Vice Mayor Edwin Malvar has agreed to participate in the National Basketball Conference's final north preseason tournament starting on April 5 at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. Backed by Far Eastern Insurance, the Insurers will be supported by Cavite Gov. Ireneo "Ayong" Maliksi and handled by Coach Segundo "Bong" dela Cruz and his assistants, Alvin Gray and Lito Aguilar. Also vying in the series are the Laguna Spring of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro, Mayor Freddie Tinga's Forward Taguig, the Parañaque Jets of Vice Mayor and actor-TV host Anjo Yllana and the RP-Cebuana Lhuillier team. Meanwhile, the Iligan Crusaders have named Billy Reyes as their coach for the Panasonic-NBC national championship starting on April 23.



ELINA Hasanova returns a serve during the 16th Mitsubishi Lancer International Junior Tennis championships. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

# Groth, Eaton gain quarters

**UPSET-CONSCIOUS Samuel Groth of Australia and Chris Eaton of Great Britain reached the quarterfinals yesterday in the 16th Mitsubishi Lancer International Juniors Tennis Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.**

The Melbourne-based Groth bundled out 10th seed Christoph Hodl of Austria, 6-3, 6-4, to arrange an eagerly awaited showdown with top seed Vivek Shokeen of India, who advanced with a 6-4, 1-6, 6-1 decision over 16th pick Jiri Kosler of Czechoslovakia.

Groth, who skipped the ATP Futures circuit back home to try his luck in the international junior scene, had earlier taken out ninth seed Weerapat Doakmaile of Thailand, 6-2, 7-5, in the second round of this Group 1 event.

Eaton, who ousted fifth seed Alberto Gonzalez of Panama in the second day of this weeklong tournament, added Lai Xiao-Peng of Hong Kong to his list of victims, 6-3, 6-3.

Eaton's next foe is Japanese Shuhei Uzawa, who bumped off Charl Womarans, 7-5, 6-3.

Meanwhile, girls' singles top seed Chan Yung-Jan of Taiwan and No. 2 Caroline Wozniacki breezed past their respective rivals.

Chan made short work of No. 15 Olivia Lucaszewics of Australia, 6-1, 6-2, while Wozniacki, after a second-round struggle, did just enough in a 6-4, 7-5 victory over No. 14 Ellen Barry of New Zealand.

Joining Chan and Wozniacki in the last eight were third seed Hsu Wen-Hsin of Taiwan, fourth seed Mihaela Buzarnescu of Romania, No. 6 Vania King of the US, seventh seed Amina Rakhim of Kazakhstan, eighth pick Hwang I-Hsuan of Taiwan and unseeded Zhang Ling of Hong Kong.

Hsu tripped Aude Vermoezen of Belgium, 7-6 (8), 6-3; Buzarnescu downed No. 16 Ekaterina Shulaeva of Canada, 7-5, 6-3; King reigned supreme over Japanese Erina Kikuchi, 6-1, 6-0; Rakhim dusted off No. 13 Sandhya Nagraj of India, 6-2, 6-0; Hwang beat 10th seed Valeria Pulido of Mexico, and Zhang, who ousted fifth seed Valerie Tetreault of Canada in the second round, thumped Julia Bone of Great Britain, 6-3, 6-2.

The day also saw the complete wiping out of Filipino campaigners as Sayer and Lai returned in the afternoon to boot out Kyle Joshua Dandan and Ralph Barte, 6-3, 6-3, in the quarterfinals after Myles Blake and Groth bumped off Miguel Narvaez and Pablo Olivarez II, 6-4, 6-0.

# RP female jin hurt sparring with male foe

**By Marc Anthony Reyes**

IT WAS just an accident.

This was the explanation given by Philippine Taekwondo Association executive vice president Hong Sung-chon Hong yesterday on the injury sustained by national jin Ma. Criselda Roxas during a recent sparring session against RP teammate Brix Ramos.

Hong was reacting to a report that Cavite Rep. Crispin Remulla wants a congressional investigation of the incident which the congressman said amounted to "the mauling of a woman by a man supposedly in the name of sports."

"A sanctioned mauling if ever there is one," said Remulla of the match that saw Roxas, quoting his sources, emerge with a broken jaw and chin. She was hospitalized for nine days, Remulla added.

Hong said what happened to Roxas was just an accident which takes place even in other sports and that he immediately halted the "routine match" after the incident.

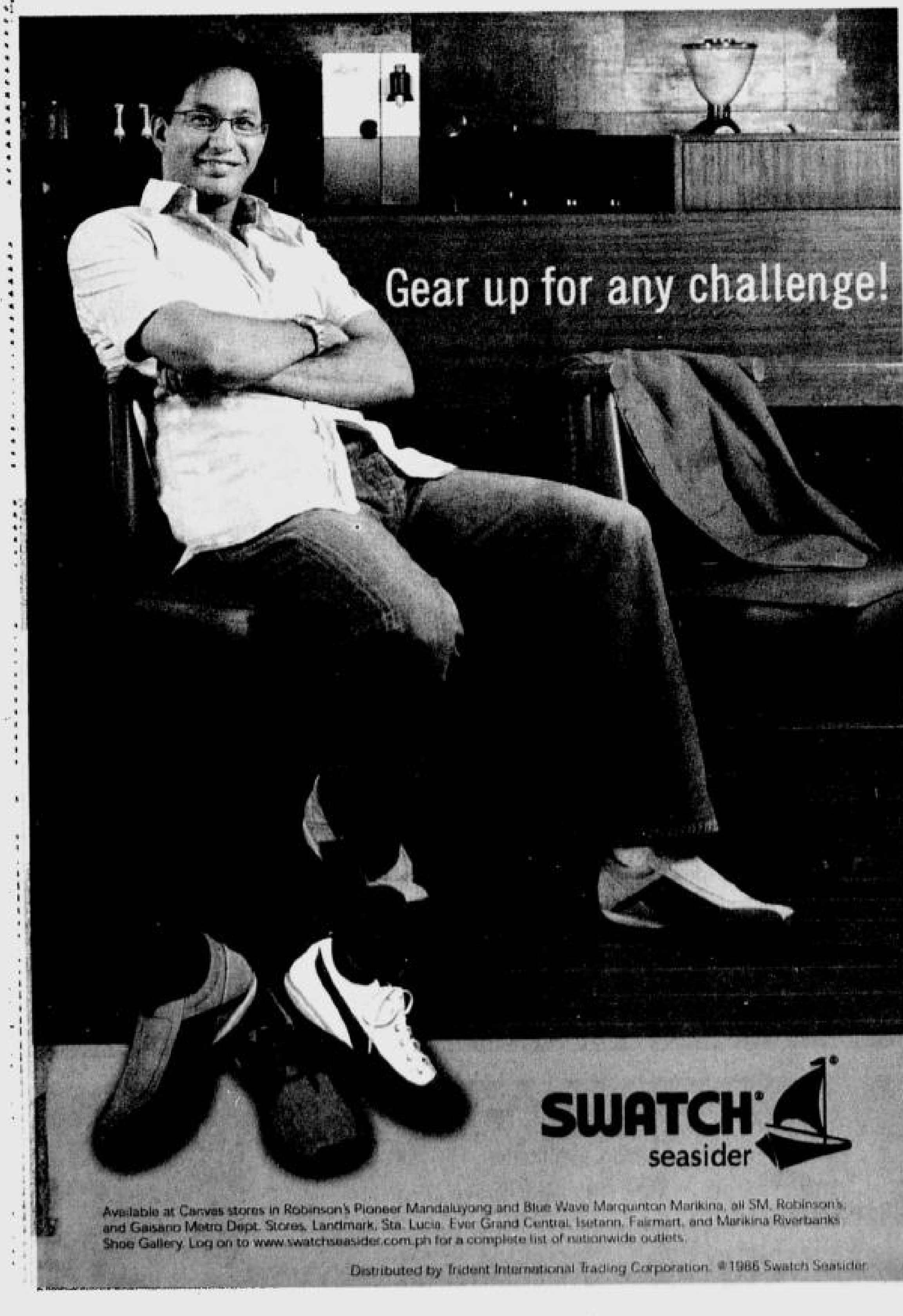
Hong said Roxas was quickly given medical attention for her "minor injuries" that according to the longtime South Korean taekwondo official can't be entirely prevented because of the nature of the sport.

"This is not the first time it happened in taekwondo and in other sports like basketball which is not even a martial art," added Hong.

He stressed that female jins are normally pitted against their male counterparts for just one round to test their skills against an obviously stronger opponent, a practice that comes in handy when battling foreign rivals in international events.

"But these practices are regulated and we never let anyone get hurt intentionally," Hong told the INQUIRER. He added that neither Roxas nor her parents lodged a complaint against his training program.

Remulla said he was provided by his sources with photos of Roxas showing the extent of her injuries. He added that Roxas' jaw had to be wired and she is now on a liquid diet for two months, effectively removing her chance to compete in a tournament in Madrid.



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# MGM villa story makes Mike Arroyo pure and golden

**BARE EYE**

*Recah Trinidad*

SUDDENLY, there's this frantic rush to extol, nay canonize, the First Gentleman, Mike Arroyo.

Nothing wrong with that, but Mr. Arroyo's cheerleaders and assorted defenders, including one congressman who could not properly comprehend English, should watch out.

If they don't, their venerable item could land way past the gates of heaven.

That's very dangerous, a well-meaning fellow like Mr. Arroyo, suddenly the subject of overwhelming praise, ending up in limbo.

We can only blame indulgent fellows who, in their diligence (*dilihensiya* in street slang) would agree to disfigure facts in order to fortify their lot.

Take the case of one Rep. Anthony Miranda (Isabela), identified as the spokesperson of the administration Kampi party, who said this columnist "had clarified that no Filipino actually stayed in the $20,000-a-day suite" at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

That gross misconception saw print yesterday inside the INQUIRER (A4) in the report by Gil C. Cabacungan and Philip C. Tubeza on how Malacañang had taken up the cudgels for Mike A. in the case of the Las Vegas luxury suite.

***

As expected, we got calls wondering if we had recanted, made a turnaround in the P1-M-a-night-suite story.

Here's one of the text messages we received: "*Kahit nga si* Korina (Sanchez) *di naniwala kaya di nila tinackle ni* Ted (Failon), *sabi nga*, *naku ha*, *totoo ba ito*, *nag*-recant *si* Recah Trinidad *dun sa* P1-M suite story?"

The guys who shared the byline in that story, my friends Gil and Philip, explained the Miranda claim was not part of their report.

A check bared it was contained in a press release that was squeezed in by the desk into the story.

Of course, I felt bad because the claim by this congressman had made the INQUIRER look irresponsible.

And why would I take the pains of sleeping on the floor at MGM, to gather the elusive details on the $20,000-a-night suite, only to make a turnaround?

***

That's silly. I did come up with the report, without pointedly identifying Mike Arroyo as the main occupant of the luxurious MGM Villa, only after I had gathered enough solid facts.

I know it would stir a hornet's nest, but I also happen to have with me the confirming text message of one congressman who had invited me to dine at the villa.

This congressman later openly identified Mr. Arroyo as the main occupant of the luxurious villa, after I asked him who would be our host.

Once the issue started to catch fire, friend and defenders of the First Gentleman worked double time to sanitize the image of their venerable patron.

In his column yesterday, Mon Tulfo also claimed somebody else must've given the suite to Mr. Arroyo.

Wrote Mon: "Perhaps Efraim Genuino, chair of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor), coordinated with MGM Hotel for Mike Arroyo to be given a luxury suite."

That, exactly, was what I had suspected, as stated in that first column on the case last week.

Yes, there was nothing wrong principally.

But why would the Pagcor chief do that sly thing?

In the service of country?

Or to ensure that Mr. Arroyo will continue helping him?

***

You know what? The Tulfo piece on the First Gentleman brought tears to my eyes.

Yesterday was not my church day, but I had to rush to the San Felipe church in our city to do some soul-searching.

Yesterday's piece was one of Tulfo's splendid reportage.

Mon, pardon my saying this *padre*, you did excellently in picturing the First Gentleman as a modern-day angel.

It was so lavish that, after reading the piece, I felt the President, with her sagging popularity, was suddenly unworthy of the First Gentleman, who had shone as a knight pure and golden.

***

That's all folks.

Yesterday was not my church day, but I prayed for the First Gentleman.

Today is not also my column day, but I had to ask for spare space to make this clarification.

It's hard to keep things bottled up in your chest.

I also broke a promise to a dear friend, who called all the way from LA, to request for a ceasefire on the MGM villa issue.

It doesn't feel good disappointing a friend.

But then, I had no recourse after one congressman, who could not comprehend what he read, tried to make the INQUIRER look silly and cheap.

**WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL:** Manila Jaycees president Francisco Pablo Carlos II prepares to make the ceremonial toss of the 7th Wheelchair Basketball League at the PhilSports Arena. With him is Papgoc chair Michael Barredo. Dacor (Disabled Athletic Club of Rizal) and TWH (Tahanang Walang Hagdan) are disputing the title yesterday in the finals of the event being held in cooperation with Philspada (Philippine Sports Association for the Differently Abled) and sponsored by Philam Life Insurance and Victoria Spring Purified Drinking Water.

# RP bets rule Paris Pencak Silat meet

**A CRACK eight-man Philippine team won six gold and two silver medals to grab the overall title in the world-ranked First International Paris Open for Pencak Silat 2005 held March 25–27 in Paris, France.**

Christopher Yabut, who was given the Best Athlete award by organizers, led the RP team gold medal haul by topping the Tanding category-1 from Tunggal (50-55 kg) event.

Other gold medalists are Emmanuel Andres Baesa (65-70 kg), Marniel Dimla (70-75 kg), Neil John Ballos (80-85 kg), Larry Sarreal in the Open class, and Allei Hernandez in the category Tunggal Putri.

Al Sabar Sangkula (55-60 kg) and Nerlyn Huinda (50-55 kg) won the silver medal in the world level event, which attracted nations from Europe, including the Philippines and other Southeast Asian countries.

The RP team was sent to the event by the First Gentleman Foundation through the support of the Cathay Pacific Steel and PhilAm Foundation.

Other teams came from Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore, Vietnam, Belgium, France, The Netherlands, Turkey, Italy, Austria, Spain and England.

"As far as preparations for the Southeast Asian Games are concerned, we can say that the team is on the right track," said Philippine Pencak Silat Association president Sultan Jamalul Kiram III. "We hope to sustain this through the support of the FG Foundation and our godfathers."

Head coach Datu Abdilnasser Kiram and foreign coach Suhartono said the team's showing in the event indicates that the Philippines is becoming one of the world's best in the sport.

# Legaspi shocks Ardina in jungolf nat'l playoff

MANILA Southwoods-Masters and Riviera streaked to runaway victories in the team competition even as Ma-an Legaspi stunned Dottie Ardina in a sudden-death playoff for the individual title at the close Wednesday of the 1st Jungolf National Club Championships.

Southwoods-Masters again banked on Tonton Asistio, who cracked par anew, to beat sister team Southwood-Legends by 25 points for the top plum in Division I played at Mt. Malarayat in Batangas.

Special division stars Gene Bondoc (52-154) and national team mainstay Mike Bibat (50-152) had to play second fiddle to the younger Asistio who claimed the overall individual title with 162 points for 54 holes.

Korean Seo Jae Lee of Orchard was the girls overall winner, posting 51-161 to beat the fancied Jayvie Agojo (46-145) in the Samsung junior tour inaugural.

After leading Riviera to a 50-point romp over host Camp Aguinaldo together with Tonton Arevalo and AR Ramos in Division II, Legapi and Ardina were left to settle the individual title.

And the unexpected happened as Legaspi slapped Ardina, who has a Junior World title and a couple of US Kids World Championship titles under her belt, her first loss in a long time with a birdie on the first playoff hole.

The series, also sponsored by Philippine Airlines and Unilever, resumes next week in Baguio with a Ryder Cup-style competition. For inquiries call Gay 0917-9316091 or 893-9599.

Orchard's Wolen Superal captured the overall title in Division . Topping their respective divisions were Michael Limandibrata of Aguinaldo in Class C, JR Gonzales also of Aguinaldo and Sun Mi Hwang of TJGL in Class D, Ramos and Princess Superal in Class E, Abby Arevalo and Koji Kano of Riviera in Class F.

In Division I, Mico Alejandro and Bambee dela Paz topped Class A, Jikjik Abdon and Crystal Superal shared Class B honors while Bondoc nipped Bibat by two in the special division.

**MORALES:** Honored as Tijuana Distinguished Citizen

# July fight for Erik

MEXICAN legend Erik "El Terrible" Morales is set for a grand return to the ring in July following his hard-earned unanimous decision win over Filipino icon Manny Pacquiao at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.

Speaking to the Mexican press, Morales said his last fight against Pacquiao "was a very difficult fight," although he stressed that it left not much damage in him and he would require just a two months' rest before going back to the gym.

While HBO has already offered a July date for his next fight, Morales said the cable giant has not yet made known his possible opponent.

Morales said he welcomes a rematch with Pacquiao or a fourth encounter with compatriot Marco Antonio Barrera.

Pacquiao had earlier been advised by a plastic surgeon to rest for at least five months to allow the cut over his right eye to completely heal.

"I want to be the first Mexican boxer to conquer four world titles in four different divisions," Morales said Wednesday after he made a $10,000 donation to the Red Cross in Tijuana, Mexico, represented by Ms Elbe Maria Amaya de Hank.

Earlier, Morales was honored in Tijuana by his compatriots, who bestowed him the "Ciudadano Distinquido" (Distinguished Citizen) following his epic win over Pacquiao.

Meanwhile, reigning Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation minimumweight titlist Rodel Mayol departs for Japan today as he girds for the third defense of his crown against Japanese Takayuki Korogi on April 4 in Osaka. Mayol will be accompanied by manager Josephine Ouano, trainer Carl Peñalosa Jr. and boxing judge Bruce McTavish. *Salven Lagumbay, Contributor*

# Rotary golfest goes to Baguio

BAGUIO City has formally welcomed Rotary's centennial golf celebration as its city council recently declared April 11-17, 2005 as "Rotary Week."

The 19th RGFFP golf fellowship tournament is set on April 13-16 at Baguio's two famous courses—Camp John Hay and Baguio Country Club, which are also the event's sponsors.

Vice Mayor Rey Bautista and councilors Bong Mandapat and Tony Tabora sponsored the resolution backing the golfest.

Fabulous hole-in-one prizes on all par 3s of both courses will be up for gabs daily. Four par 3s will stake P1 million cash prize, four others a car or the equivalent of P700,000, another four an OSIM massage chair and the remaining five par 3 holes will feature 3 pins green with an expensive watch, a Paul Harris Fellow Membership and a flat screen TV as prizes.

The sponsors include GNC, OSIM, Petron, Integrated Pipe Specialists, Enriquez Security Services Inc., Lucerne Jewellers, Pagcor, Asia Brewery, Deutsche Bank, Cathay Land, Community Innovations Inc., Citibank and Cathay Pacific.

For inquiries, call 09209199000 or 0920-9087635; e-mal rgffp1987@yahoo.com or fax 721-5940.

# Ateneo-La Salle tiff starts with seniors action today

A SENIORS competition today at the Alabang Country Club ushers in the 2005 Ateneo-La Salle dual meet which stakes an Ernie Els Limited Edition Omega watch worth at least P110,000, the newest models of Nokia cellular phones and other exciting prizes.

The prizes will be raffled off to the expected 700 participants of the annual dual meet presented by PLDT and SMART after the regular Ateneo-La Salle tiff on Monday, April 4 at three championship courses of the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

Golfers from the contending schools will be vying for team and individual prizes in a two-in-one competition.

The perpetual Classic Cup will be up for grabs in the Challenge Division which is the regular Ateneo vs La Salle duel while the Fellowship Division is a side-event where one golfer from each opposing side forms a team.

Organizers announced that the deadline for the early-bird registration promo has been extended up to today. Tee off for both the seniors and regular competitions is 7 a.m.

Players who need partners for the Fellowship Division will be matched on the actual day of the tourney also backed by International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI), OOCL (Philippines) Inc., Johnny Air Cargo as premier sponsors and Cost U Less, Eagle Express, EPCIB, Institute Saintre, Manila Bank, Salonpas, American Express and Transcom as special sponsors.

The Classic Cup replaces the Ambassador Carlos Valdes trophy which La Salle retired after winning from 2001-2003.

For inquiries, call the alumni affairs offices, 426-6081 for Ateneo and 523-6158/526-5612 for La Salle.

The tourney has already succeeded in raising funds for a scholarship grant to be awarded by each school's alumni association.

Each participant will receive complimentary golf clinic and instructional DVDs by SMART endorser Jennifer Rosales, customized SIM designs with their respective school logos and customized number series for alumni.

## 16th MITSUBISHI LANCER INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP Sidelights

**FOR INDIAN** coach Gajendra Singh, Filipinos are one of the strongest tennis players in the world. Singh, who coached the Syrian Davis Cup squad for four years before returning to India to coach young wards insists that the local players could do very well in the future. "Your players just need more international exposures. They have the talent and the heart to excel in this sport," Singh noted. Going further, Singh said that probably, the late Felicisimo "Mighty Mite"Ampon was the greatest Filipino tennisters. "During those times that tennis was just growing, Ampon is far ahead of the others. His strokes are the hardest to return," Singh maintained "Then there is Barrientos (Felix) who has been very successful in his international stints."Filipinos I've seen so far are really good. As I have said, give them more exposure and they will really excel.

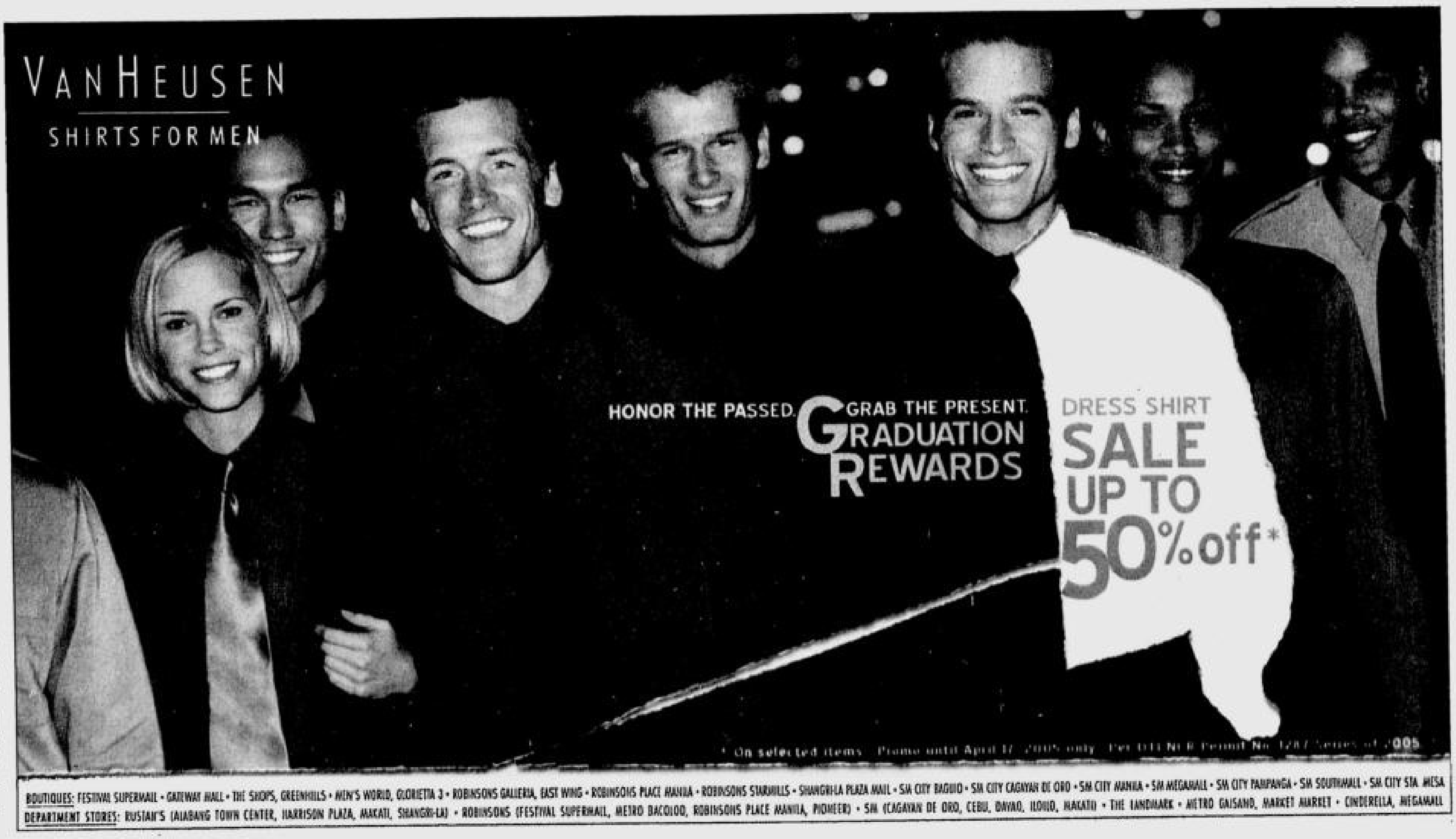
• • • •

Singh's pronouncements were echoed by Chan Yung Jan, the top-seeded World juniors No. 1 in the girls' division from Taiwan."Yes, Filipinos are good. I'm lucky I was not drawn to play against any of them. I feel butterflies in my stomach whenever I play against your players." Chan said. Going to the tournament, Chan said that her secret weapon is the Philippine summer heat. "I'm used to playing in hot weather and although the heat here affects my game a little, it affects my rivals more," Chan acknowledged.

• • • •

The strength of the 16(superscript: th) Mitsubishi Lancer International Juniors Tennis Championships is just so deep that nobody knows when a favorite will be ousted by lesser-known but players proving to play better as the tournament wears on.

In the boys' division alone, eight seeds were bundled out in the second round, the first time that the top 16 in the 48-man draw saw action. And one of the teeners rising to the occasion is 17-year-old Samuel Groth from Melbourne, Australia. Groth, in three matches, have "slain" the ninth and 10(superscript: th) seeds in succession to become one of only four unseeded players in the quarterfinals. Groth, rankled only 154(superscript: th) in the world juniors, put out No. 9 and world No. 76 Weerapat Doakmaiee in the second round, 6-2, 7-5, and then scalped No. 10 and world juniors No. 84 Christoph Hodl of Austria, 6-3, 6-4, in the round-of-16. Other seeds who went out early were second seed Myles Blake of Great Britain (world juniors No. 44), third seed Andreas Haider-Maurer of Austria (49), fourth pick Tristan Farron-Mahon of Ireland (52), No. 5 Alberto Gonzales of Panama (53), eighth pick Chang Huai-En of Taiwan (75), 13 (superscript: th) seed Sanam Singh of India (104) and No. 15 Kirati Siribut of Thailand (115).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## SPORTSWATCH

### Larrazabal bikefest reels off today

THE 4TH Terry Larrazabal Bike Festival goes full throttle today in Ormoc City, Leyte, with national cyclists, along with over 500 cycling enthusiasts, including mountain bikers and road race and BMX aficionados, expected to participate in the event. "This yearly festival is the only cycling event of its kind in the Philippines, as it successfully promotes 'cyclotourism' and unites the three major cycling disciplines in one weekend and in one location," festival director Gregorio Larrazabal said. Larrazabal is also the country's representative to the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IBMA). Considered as one of the country's premiere cycling events, the bike festival will be held from April 1 to 3, 2005, and will feature mountain bike cross-country and downhill races, road bike circuit and sprint competitions, dirt jumping and BMX races.

### SM holds summer sports tour

THE SM chain of malls, in its continuing effort to provide the public, particularly the youth, a venue where they could spend valuable time this time of the year, is bringing back the summer sports tour beginning tomorrow. On tap are taekwondo, wushu, football, climbing and basketball. This is the second staging of the summer sports tour launched last year by SM in cooperation with JVC and Globe. The five sports disciplines will be played simultaneously at designated SM malls for two days for the duration of the 12-week long summer tour with games to start at 10 a.m. Those interested may contact the events' organizers at their respective venues. Taekwondo will be played at 14 malls starting at SM-Bacoor tomorrow and Sunday before moving to SM Megamall on April 5 and 6, while SM-Southmall will host wushu.

### Pacquiao, Mikee grace SCOOP forum

RING Magazine People's Champion Manny Pacquiao and Asian Games gold medalist Mikee Cojuangco make a rare appearance before the media when they appear in today's SCOOP Sa Kamayan weekly forum at the Kamayan Restaurant-Padre Faura in Ermita. Pacquiao will discuss his plans in his quest to become the first Filipinoto win a third world title in three separate divisions. Cojuangco, winner of the gold medal in show jumping event of equestrian in the 2002 Asia Games in Busan, South Korea, will talk about the preparations of the Philippine Equestrian Federation for the coming Southeast Asian Games the country is hosting late this year.

### San Juan teams contest group lead

SAN Juan Brown and San Juan Orange contest the group lead in another busy weekend schedule tomorrow in the elimination round of the First Global Destiny Basketball League. Both with 3-0 win-loss slates, the two teams tangle at 2:30 p.m. at the Barangay Sta. Lucia covered court in the tournament backed by Solid Video Corp., Sony Philippines and MyDestiny Cable Internet. At the Valenzuela Sports Complex in Barangay Maysan, Valenzuela City, Valenzuela Red (4-0) tries to fortify its grip of top spot when it takes on winless Valenzuela Orange also at 2:30 p.m. in the event supported by Avid Sales Corp., Regent Food and Molten balls. Pacesetting Manila Orange (4-0) tackles Manila Red (1-4) at 1 p.m. at the Dapitan Sports Complex in Sampaloc.

### Arlos, Parcon weigh-in slated

VETERAN fighter Jun Arlos and his fellow former Philippine Boxing Federation mini-flyweight champ Philip Parcon will size each other up in the official weigh-in today prior to their collision for a world title on Saturday. The Games and Amusement Board will supervise the weigh-in before newly installed World Boxing Empirecommissioner-advisor for Asia Pacific region Dante Almario leads the managers and officials meeting. The 12-round title fight will take place at the Junction in front of the Alabang Barangay Hall in Muntinlupa City.

### Former Hoyas join BEST opening

TWO American collegiate basketball players from Georgetown University will grace the opening of the Milo BEST Center's summer basketball clinics on April 4 at the Ateneo College covered courts in Quezon City. The two—Omari Faulker and Courtland Freeman—will be the first cultural envoys sent to the Philippines by the USS State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs under its Cultural Connect program. Faulkner and Freeman are past recipients of special awards in recognition of their on-court talents and off-court contributions. Faulkner has mentored youths in various basketball camps while Freeman is the recipient of the Raymond Medley Model Student Athlete award as well as the Captain's award. Also invited to the opening ceremony are PBA stars Paolo Mendoza of Sta. Lucia, Rey Evangelista of Purefoods and Patrick Fran of Talk 'N Text and collegiate players Larry Fonacier, Magnum Membrere, Joseph Yeo and Arjun Cordero.

### NCA derby features Manny

THE NATIONAL Cockers Association (NCA) 5-Cock Derby is all set today at Pasay City Cockpit, with topnotch cocker-sportsmen seeing action. Today's 70-fight program will start at 5 p.m. Attention will be focused on cockfight enthusiast and boxing hero Manny Pacquiao, who is up against tough opponents because in yesterday's matching of entries. NCA president Ito Ynares said that all of the NCA members will compete in this fund-raising sports affair. For other inquiries, contact 8431890, 8431746 and 8166750.

### Roligon hosts small breeders' tilt

ROLIGON Mega Cockpit's Game Ka Na Ba 5-Cock Derby, a four-day cockfest designed for small-time cockers and breeders is all set on April 30, May 2, 4 and 6 and is expected to attract more than 300 entries from different provinces. As of yesterday, more than 70 participants have firmed up their commitment to join. For an entry fee of only P6,600, the guaranteed prize at stake is P2 million. The fastest win champion will drive home an imported Big Horn Isuzu 4x4. Meanwhile, the 501 Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan will start early at 7 a.m. tomorrow, Saturday, April 2, due to the big number of fights. Entry fee is only P2,200 but the guaranteed prize is P501,000. Winners of fight numbers 1 to 59 will get P2,000 each as bonus. For other inquiries, contact 8332275, 8331638 and 8529812.

## RACING TIPS

**AT SLLP BY MR. 999**

Race 1—1. Hello Mushi 2. Miss Mirage 3. Secret Agent 4. Fallujah
Race 2—1. Paano Ba 2. Solid North 3. Long Hitter 4. Juara
Race 3—1. Fabiola 2. Queen's Gold 3. Love and Kisses 4. Kambro
Race 4—1. Ole Ole Ole 2. Stingray 3. Best In Class 4. Southern Prince
Race 5—1. Suonos 2. Speed Machine 3. Puppy Dog Tail 4. Wedding Vows
Race 6—1. Sweet Felicity 2. Just A Moment 3. Well Noted 4. La Signorina
Race 7—1. Idol 2. Magic Dave 3. Naughty 4. Great Tower 5. Extreme Magic 6. Powerhouse
Race 8—1. Heart of the Wind 2. Divine Right 3. Solo Singer 4. Morning Glory
Race 9—1. Paramount 2. Sir Brendan Jean/Ginger Candy 3. Albatross 4. Concorde 5. King's Choice 6. Flying Jordan

GOOD SHOWING: Terry Capistrano (right), manager of the De La Salle University men's basketball and track and field teams and president of TMS Ship Agencies, and partner Robert Pactolerin (left) receive their trophy from Country Club Invitational organizer and ICTSI chair and president Enrique K. Razon after finishing second in the pro-am recently in Canlubang, Laguna. Jherome Delariarte ruled the P3.8M tournament.

# Mavs stretch Ce

# Suns claim Pa

**BOSTON—Dirk Nowitzki had 36 points and points off the bench to lead the Dallas Mavo over Boston on Wednesday night, sending high-tying fourth straight loss.**

The Mavericks won for the ninth time in 11 games and continued to excel on the road, improving the NBA's third-best road record to 24-11.

"We worked on being able to close out games early in the season defensively," said Nowitzki.

Since winning 11 of 12 after acquiring Antoine Walker, Boston has slumped, and Walker has shot 33 percent during the four-game slide.

In Phoenix, Steve Nash had a triple-double, Quentin Richardson set Phoenix marks for 3-point shooting and the Suns clinched their first Pacific Division title in 10 years by blasting Philadelphia, 116-87.

Nash, who played only 27 minutes, had a career-high 13 rebounds to go with 12 points and 12 assists. The stylish point guard drew a lo
pass to St
Phoenix a
third quar

### Franchis

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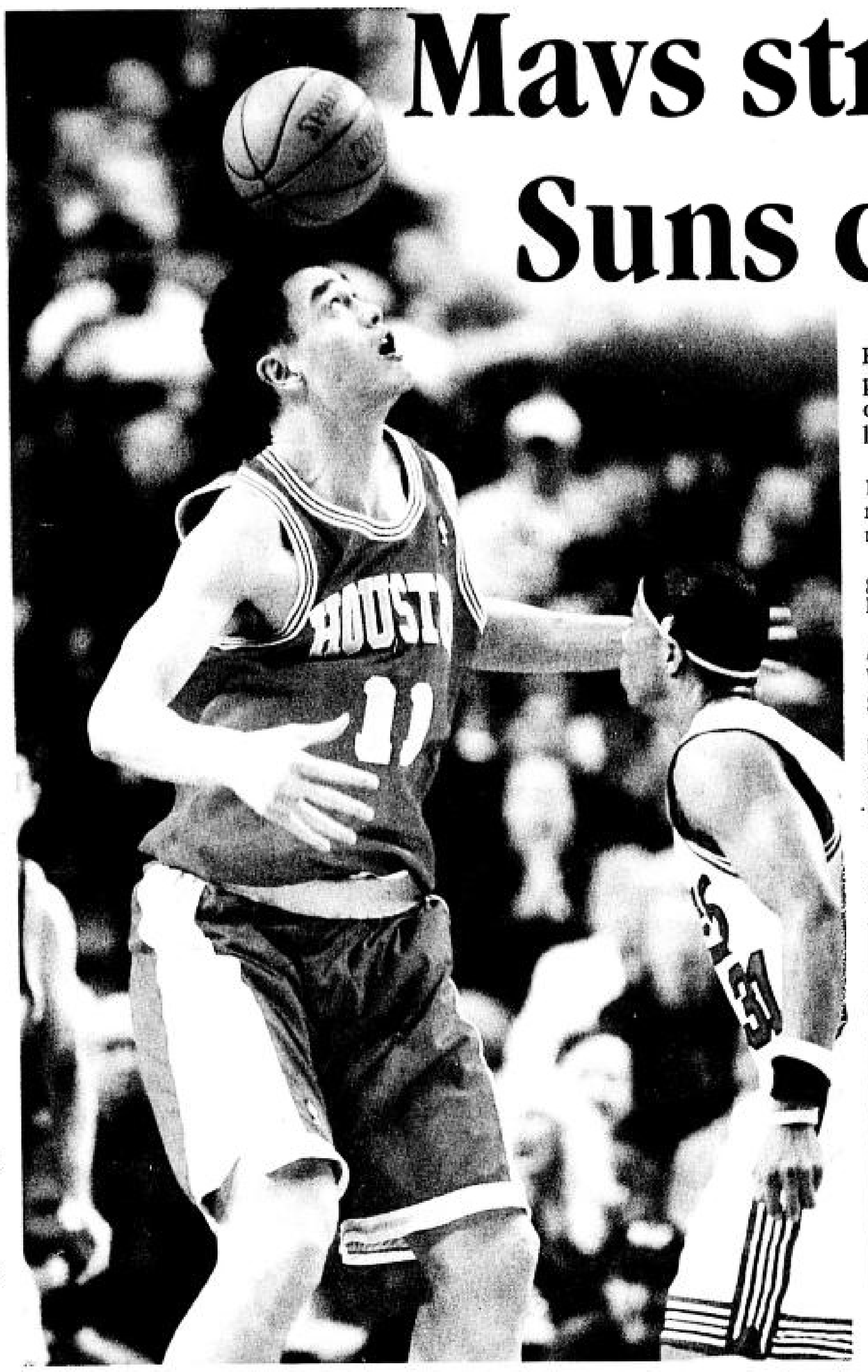

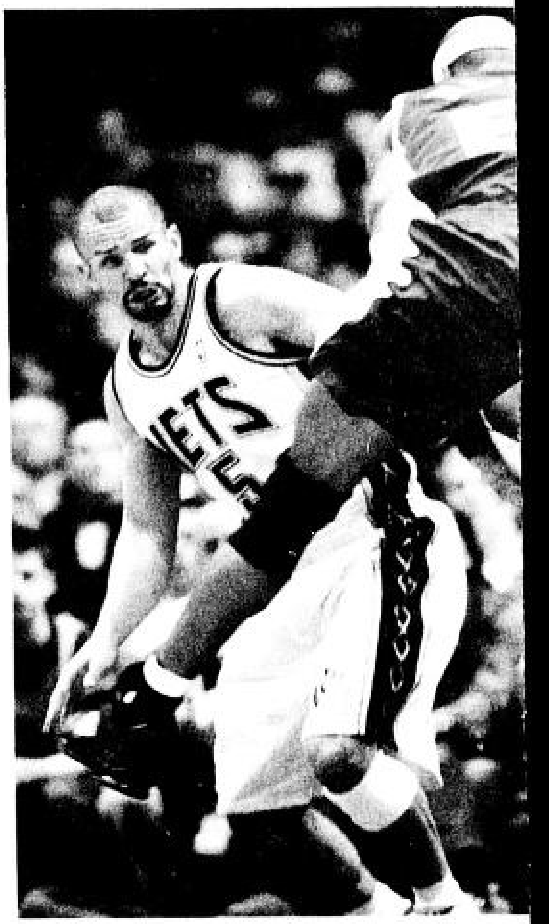

WHETHER it was hovering over Yao Ming's head (top) or zipping right in between the legs of Corey Maggette, the loose ball was everywhere in the NBA Thursday. REUTERS

# Yao shows up Korean

PORTLAND, Oregon—Yao Ming scored 29 points, and Tracy McGrady had 26 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Houston Rockets to a 100-84 victory over the Trail Blazers on Wednesday, completing a four-game sweep of the season series against Portland.

McGrady's 3-pointer extended Houston's lead to 72-57 midway through the third quarter, and the Rockets went on to lead by as many as 25 points for their sixth win in seven games.

The most intriguing matchup of the game was between 2.29-meter (7-foot-6) Yao and Portland's 2.21-meter (7-foot-3) Ha Seung-Jin.

Jin was selected by Portland in the second round, 46th overall, of last year's draft. He is the first Korean to play in the NBA.

Yao schooled the 19-year-old rookie with physical play and a humbling blocked shot. Ha, who came in the game with 4:25 left in the first quarter, was appearing in just his 10th game for the Blazers.

Ha did not score, but had four rebounds in 15 minutes. Shareef Abdur-Rahim led Portland with 21 points.

Houston, in fifth place in the West, went 3-1 on its road trip and will play six of its final 10 games at home.

McGrady had scored 44 points in the Rockets' 99-85 victory over Utah on Monday, showing no signs of a right hip strain that had been bothering him recently. It was his fifth game with 40 or more points this season. *AP*

# Phil readies for Masters

DULLUTH, Georgia—Reigning Masters champion Phil Mickelson will make his final preparations to defend the crown by playing here at the $5-million PGA BellSouth Classic starting Thursday.

Mickelson, who won here in 2000, is the event's top money winner with $1,133,416 in seven appearances. He finished 10th here last year one week before finally capturing his first major title down the road in Augusta.

"This will be a big week for me to get momentum and to get confidence in the way I've been playing," Mickelson said. "I've put a lot of time in. Now it's time to start having it pay off."

The par-72, 7,293-yard TPC at Sugarloaf has undulating greens that provide a satisfying test for those preparing to play at next week's Masters.

"This tournament has great practice facilities," Mickelson said. "It gives me the opportunity to work on my game and get sharp and to not worry about what's coming up next week."

Also in the field is South Africa's Retief Goosen, the reigning US Open champion who won here in 2002.

Zach Johnson, Mickelson's American compatriot, edged Australia's Mark Hensby by a stroke here last year for his first US PGA Tour triumph.

Johnson has three consecutive top-10 showings, a third at Miami and eighth at Bay Hill and eighth again at his first Players Championship.

"I feel good about where my game is at," Johnson said. "It's a kind of a stretch where you want to get things rolling. I hope it carries into this weekend and for the rest of the year for that matter."

Johnson is trying to become the first back-to-back winner of this event since Hale Irwin in 1975 and 1977. There was no event held in 1976 because the US Open was being conducted at the neighboring Atlanta Athletic Club.

Such a repeat could send Johnson, 29, into the Masters with amazing confidence. *AFP*

# Mauresmo, C

MAURESMO AP

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida—
Amelie Mauresmo moved one
er to the Nasdaq-100 Open titl
No. 1 ranking—by beating Ar
of Serbia and Montenegro, 6-1
quarterfinals on Wednesday.

Mauresmo, who spent five
No. 1 last year, can regain the
if she wins the tournament a
top-five player in one of he
matches. Lindsay Davenp
skipped the hard-court tour
protect her troublesome knee
No. 1 since October.

"Of course I would love to g
the Frenchwoman said. "But h
once, it's pretty different. M
somewhere else. Doing well i
events is today more importan

Mauresmo's opponent Th
be unseeded Belgian Kim Cl
won her 12th match in a row
No. 5-ranked Elena Dementie
in just 56 minutes.

"I feel like I'm hitting as goo
the moment," Clijsters said. "I
being out there."

# Why RP will win 2005 Asian 9-Ba

THE PHILIPPINES won the Sari Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour in 2004 thanks largely to former world champion Efren "Bata" Reyes, who won three legs of the five-leg series organized by ESPN Star Sports. Reyes topped the first leg in Singapore last year, beating compatriot and Puyat Sports teammate Warren Kiamco; the second leg in Vietnam, outclassing Taiwan's two-time world champion Chao Fong-pang, and the fourth leg in Taiwan, defeating South Korea's Jeong Young-Iiwa.

I say the Filipinos will be winners again this year. Aside from Reyes, also in the five-man RP team are never-say-die Francisco "Django" Bustamante, veteran internationalist Gandy Valle of Davao City, who won this year's kick-off leg in Singapore; Lee Vann Corteza and virtual unknown Roberto Gomez Jr., who proved to be the biggest revelation in the qualifying series organized by Puyat Sports under the auspices of the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines.

The 2005 San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour enters its second leg in Jakarta today.

Sports patron and newly elected billiards director Putch Puyat, who is leaving for Jakarta today, said he expects a battle royale among the region's top players, notably between the Filipino and Chinese Taipei hotshots led by 16-year-old sensation Wu Chia-ching. Puyat, a noted sportsman-businessman, was personally tapped by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo to be the country's godfather for billiards in the coming Southeast Asian Games.

At the moment, Davao City's Valle leads the Asian Tour rankings with 70 points, followed by Wu with 50. Filipino Antonio Gabica and Taiwanese Yang Ching-shun share the next spot with 40 points apiece. Three seeded Filipino players—Reyes, Bustamante and Corteza—together with Keng Kwang Chang of Singapore are tied for fourth to eighth places with 30. Also in the rankings are William Ang Boon Lay and Toh Lian Han of Singapore, Manan Chandra and Alok Kumar of India, Chao of Chinese Taipei, Satoshi Kawabata of Japan

**CLEAN LIVING**

*Manolo R. Iñigo*

and Nguyen Thanh Nam of Vietnam. The top 10 players in the Asian Order of Merit will qualify for the 2005 World 9-Ball Pool Championship tentatively set for July in Taipei.

Filipino-Canadian Alex Pagulayan won the world crown last year, also in Taipei.

After a disappointing start in the Asian Tour in Singapore this year, the 50-year-old Reyes bounced back by winning the 18th Japan Open. In Jakarta, Reyes will be facing the region's handpicked hotshots from Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Singapore, India, Thailand, China, Malaysia, Brunei, Vietnam, Hong Kong, the Philippines and host Indonesia b
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# ltics’ woes; cific crown

**Keith Van Horn added 21
ricks to a 112-100 victory
he Celtics to their season**

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### e record

son broke Dan Majerle's franchise
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94-95. Richardson went 4-for-11
to finish with 201 made in 559

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ndo, Florida, the Magic took an-
toward reviving their playoff
a 108-96 victory over the Toron-

Hill scored 21 points and rookie
oward contributed 18 points and nine rebounds as Orlando won its second game in a row after a prolonged slump.

Rafer Alston led the Raptors with 17 points and rookie Chris Bosh added 16 points and 11 rebounds. Toronto lost for the fourth time in five games.

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Vince Carter scored 31 points and Jason Kidd had eight points and 13 assists as the Nets kept their playoff hopes alive, routing the Los Angeles Clippers, 95-78.

In Washington, Gilbert Arenas scored nine of his 36 points in the final 3 1/2 minutes, including the go-ahead basket on a driving layup in traffic with 34 seconds to play, leading the Wizards over the Atlanta Hawks, 102-99.

### Up for grabs

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Ben Gordon showed Emeka Okafor why the Rookie of the Year award is still up for grabs, scoring 22 of his career-high 35 points in the fourth quarter to lead the Chicago Bulls to a 102-99 victory over the Bobcats.

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Richard Hamilton scored 24 points, and Ben Wallace added 19 points and 14 rebounds as the Detroit Pistons ripped the Sacramento Kings, 99-82.

Detroit, which had lost four of its last five games, was coached by assistant Gar Heard for the 10th straight game as Larry Brown recovers from urinary-tract surgery. Brown is expected to be back for Friday's game.

In Milwaukee, Baron Davis scored 25 points and handed out 15 assists, and Mickael Pietrus scored 21 points off the bench to lead the Golden State Warriors over the Bucks, 113-109.

### Losing streak

Michael Redd scored 24 points and Maurice Williams added 21 points and 10 assists to lead the Bucks, who lost their seventh straight game. The losing streak is the team's worst since a nine-game slide from March 7-22, 1998. Overall, the Bucks have lost 10 of 12.

In San Antonio, Tony Parker scored 28 points, and the Spurs let a 20-point fourth-quarter lead dwindle to 10 before holding off the Seattle SuperSonics, 89-76.

In Salt Lake City, Andre Miller had 24 points and nine assists and led a key fourth-quarter run for the Denver Nuggets in a 109-88 beating of the Utah Jazz.

With the win, Denver (39-31) tied Memphis for the No. 7 spot in the Western Conference playoff race. *AP*

# *Pacers vs Heat a likely preview*

THE MIAMI Heat and the Indiana Pacers square off today in what could very well end up as a playoff preview in the National Basketball Association.

If the playoffs were to start now, the Heat and the Pacers will end up paired against each other, making today's game loaded with interest.

Miami, led by the dynamic duo of Shaquille O'Neal and Dwyane Wade, currently hold the best record in the Eastern Conference (54-18).

On the other hand, the Pacers, struggling with manpower woes, own the No. 8 spot (36-34) and have to fend off several teams battling for a playoff ticket.

The game will be aired at 9 a.m. (replay at 10 p.m.) live and exclusive on Star Sports.

The Pacers will hope Jermaine O'Neal is ready to bang bodies against Shaq and the Heat, while praying Reggie Miller recaptures his old form.

The NBA airs live on STAR Sports every Friday and on ESPN every Saturday. Schedules subject to change.

# A Boholana shines in Florida

**SPECTATOR**

*Al S. Mendoza*

FOR its sheer drama, I am reprinting below a story about a 13-year-old Boholana now living in Cooper City, Florida. The story, written by C. Ron Allen, appeared recently in the Florida-Sun Sentinel. It was sent to me by Hy Rissman, a nice fellow I met some years back. Hy's son, Lewis, used to be the general manager of the Riviera Golf Club in Silang, Cavite.

Read on:

COOPER CITY—As a kid in the Philippines, Hane Jade Rissman watched cousins and friends walk to school wearing worn out flip flop slippers, used clothing and carrying only two slices of stale bread for lunch.

Only a step better off and abandoned by her father at birth, Jade saw the homeless—in a public area in the park—splash themselves with brackish water from a bucket to wash away some of the day's dirt. Seeing the homeless—reeking from foul odor—begging, was the norm, she said.

So when Jade and her family moved to the United States a year ago, her quest was to reach back and help friends and relatives.

"In the Philippines, people are poor; here they have more opportunities," the 13-year-old Cooper City resident said. "They can't afford to buy these things."

Jade plans to return to the Philippines with her mother in the summer, hoping to have $500 saved by then without her parents' help. She intends to give her grandfather $100, a token of gratitude for raising her. She has earmarked $50 for an uncle who was instrumental in her upbringing, $100 for her spending money and with the rest—$250—she promises to throw a big party for friends and family members she hopes to continue visiting. She wants to buy them school supplies, clothes and other necessities.

"I want to just thank [my grandpa] because he is the person who took care of me when my mom was applying for work," she said. "He can use it for whatever he wants, for the house or pleasure."

Her past on her native island of Bohol also spurs her desire today to help locally.

When her eighth-grade teacher at Pines Middle School asked students for donations for a book drive, Jade brought in a bagful of books the following day.

"Two weeks passed and we had to get on all the other kids to get them to bring in books," said Athena L. Matherly, her teacher at the school in Pembroke Pines.

Jade was just as eager to volunteer for their Thanksgiving food drive and other fund-raisers.

"Eighth-graders aren't usually willing, but she is always very quick with response, always the next day or the day after," Matherly said.

Jade said it delights her to know that someone's life is better because of her efforts.

"It's just me," said Jade, who was recently recognized as a South Florida Sun-Sentinel Kid of Character, a student who best exemplifies the Broward County School District's character education traits. "I don't know what more to say. I wanted them to have a good holiday so I donated the food, clothes, books and a bunch of stuff."

Her teachers said she best demonstrates the trait of responsibility.

To Jade, it's an opportunity to share her many blessings, which began after her adopted father, Lewis Rissman, met and married her mother, Jenny, in the Philippines when Jade was 5.

Lewis Rissman, originally from Montreal, was a partner in a business in Manila. He taught golf to supplement his income, and while at a golf club one day, he met Jenny, who worked in the office.

"He came home to Montreal and said, 'Mother, I met the girl I'm going to marry,'" said Gail Rissman, who has a seasonal home in Deerfield Beach. "I said, 'How long you've known her? and he said 'two weeks.' I said, 'Two weeks?' He said, 'No, that's it.' And that was it."

Lewis Rissman then brought his new family home to Montreal to meet the rest of his family—one of the highlights of Jade's life. That experience changed her perception of white people.

"Usually in the Philippines, white people and people from other countries, they treat other people not equally," she said, barely able to control her emotions. "They treated me like family."

As she dabbed her eyes with tissue, Jade shared her innermost feelings—emotions that had been pent up for years, her grandparents said.

"My dad abandoned me when I was born ... and [Lewis Rissman] raised me from when I was 5, so he is my real dad," she said. "I love him for accepting me and for being such a good dad."

Her grandparents, Hyman and Gail Rissman, "fell in love with her immediately." Now that they are in Florida, they take her to soccer practice, the theater and plan to take her to New York to visit history and science museums.

"We figure she is 13 now, how long is she going to want to go with her grandma and grandpa?" Hyman Rissman said.

The aspiring scientist or marine biologist—who learned English at age 6—is an A student. She also participates in extra-credit assignments.

"She stood out from day one," Matherly said. "She is very attentive in class, never causes any trouble ... participates in the discussion. She always has her hands up. If I had more [students] like her, my job would be so easy."

# Clijsters forge duel

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No. 9 Venus Williams, a three-time Key Biscayne champion, will play No. 3 Maria Sharapova in the other semifinal. Williams advanced on Tuesday by ending a streak of six consecutive losses to her sister, beating Serena, 6-1, 7-6 (8).

Unseeded David Ferrer and No. 29 Rafael Nadal advanced to an all-Spanish semifinal Friday. Ferrer swept Slovakian No. 26 Dominik Hrbaty, 6-2, 6-3, and the 18-year-old Nadal beat No. 25 Thomas Johansson of Sweden, 6-2, 6-4.

"We're friends," Ferrer said. "At least a Spaniard will go on in the tournament." No man from Spain has ever won the title.

In Thursday's quarterfinals, No. 1 Roger Federer will play British No. 6 Tim Henman, and No. 31 Taylor Dent will face six-time champion Andre Agassi.

Mauresmo won the first five games and nine of the first 10 against Ivanovic, slowed by hamstring and ankle injuries and looking nervous in her first Tier I quarterfinal. The 17-year-old committed 34 unforced errors, double-faulted five times, and won only three of 17 points on her second serve. *AP*

**CLIJSTERS** REUTERS

# ll Tour

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"I just hope I don't suffer from
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r in the Asian Tour, Valle won
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lph Lauren) and my wife
dding his $10,000 paycheck
would go to the family sav-

r of the country's lone gold
all doubles (with Romeo Vil-
the 1998 Bangkok Asian
earned the trip to the Asian
ing the semifinals of the Hope
l-Filipino Open on Feb. 21. In
lle made the finals by beating Chinese Taipei's Yang and compatriot Corteza.

Valle paid tribute to his vanquished foe, saying Wu has great potential. "He's young but talented. He's going to give many Tour players more headaches in the future." Wu barged into the finals by defeating Corteza in the quarters and compatriot Yang in the semifinals.

Meanwhile, the Hope All-Filipino Open resumes on May 16-22 at the IBC-13 Studio in Quezon City. Another star-studded cast, headed by Bustamante, winner of the inaugural tournament, will see action in the tournament organized by Puyat Sports and Jemah Television.

A former world No. 1 player, Bustamante won the first Hope Open by nosing out reigning world champion Alex Pagulayan, 15-13, in a nerve-frazzling finals to pocket the first prize of P500,000. "I lost hope when Alex took the lead at 8-2, but I regained my composure when he scratched twice," said Bustamante after the dramatic victory.

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Every ₱500 single purchase gives you one raffle entry. To join, register your purchases by calling the promo hotline: 683-0008 for Metro Manila callers; 1-800-10-683-0008 for callers outside Metro Manila.

You can also register your purchases through email: bpi.lifestyle@1isa.com. Just email the following purchase information as they appear in your charge slip: (1) 16-digit BPI Express Credit card number (2) transaction amount, including centavos (3) transaction date: mm/dd/yy (4) transaction time: hh/mm.

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*Approved by DTI-NCR

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VOLVO XC90 SUV. Prize for Petron-BPI Express Credit

**For Petron-BPI Express Credit**, promo period is from October 31, 2004 to April 30, 2005. See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3521 Series of 2004

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Approved applications during the promo period will also earn raffle entries. For application and inquiries, call BPI Express Phone 89-100, visit any BPI or BPI Family Bank branch or Express Banking Center or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com. Actual unit may vary from photo.

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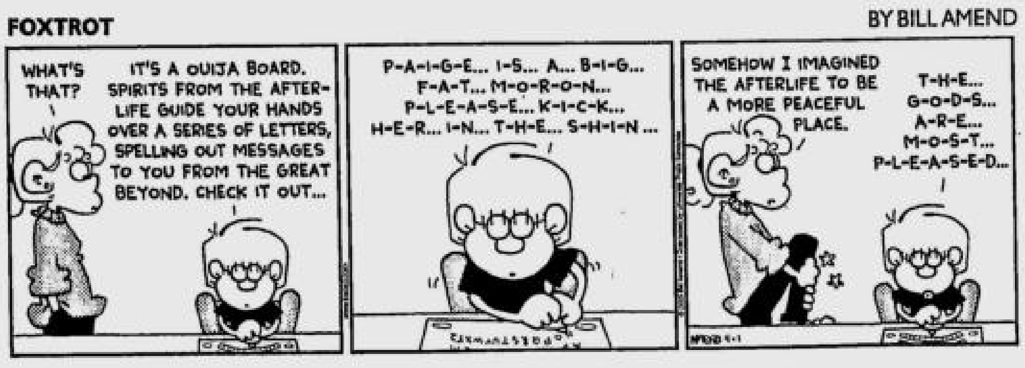
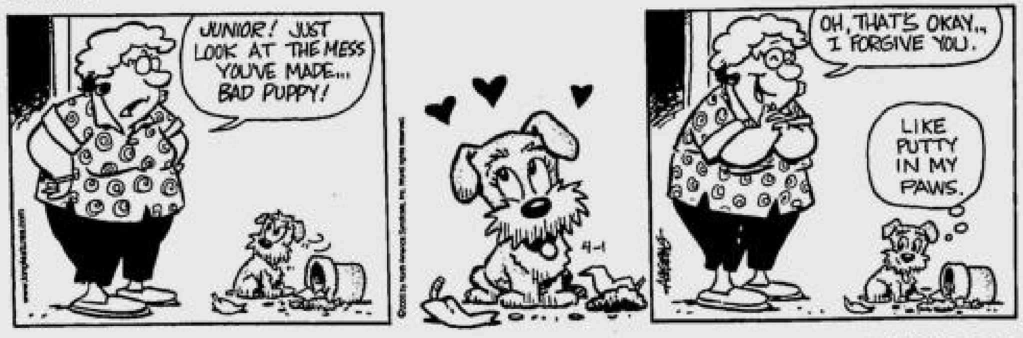
**FOXTROT**

BY BILL AMEND


WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S A OUIJA BOARD. SPIRITS FROM THE AFTER-LIFE GUIDE YOUR HANDS OVER A SERIES OF LETTERS, SPELLING OUT MESSAGES TO YOU FROM THE GREAT BEYOND. CHECK IT OUT...
P-A-I-G-E... I-S... A... B-I-G... F-A-T... M-O-R-O-N... P-L-E-A-S-E... K-I-C-K... H-E-R... I-N... T-H-E... S-H-I-N...
SOMEHOW I IMAGINED THE AFTERLIFE TO BE A MORE PEACEFUL PLACE.
T-H-E... G-O-D-S... A-R-E... M-O-S-T... P-L-E-A-S-E-D...

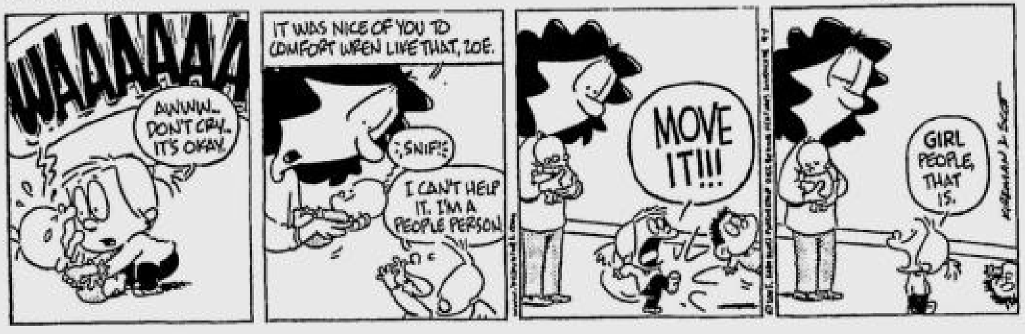
**MARVIN**

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


JUNIOR! JUST LOOK AT THE MESS YOU'VE MADE... BAD PUPPY!
4-1
OH, THAT'S OKAY.. I FORGIVE YOU.
LIKE PUTTY IN MY PAWS.

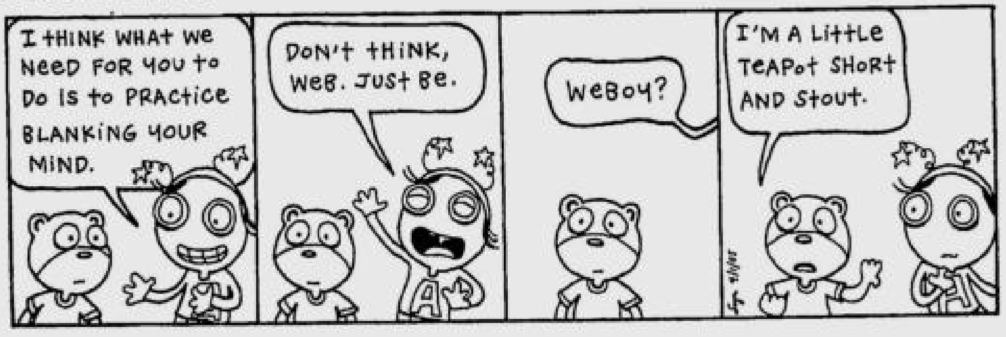
**BABY BLUES**

BY JERRY SCOTT


WAAAAAA
AWWW.. DON'T CRY.. IT'S OKAY.
IT WAS NICE OF YOU TO COMFORT WREN LIKE THAT, ZOE.
SNIF!
I CAN'T HELP IT. I'M A PEOPLE PERSON.
MOVE IT!!!
GIRL PEOPLE, THAT IS.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

**ATOMO AND WEBOY**

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I think what we need for you to do is to practice blanking your mind.
Don't think, Web. Just be.
Weboy?
I'm a little teapot short and stout.

## HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

**YOU BORN TODAY:** You're upfront, direct and straightforward. You have your goals, and you go after them. (And you're sincere.) Many of you develop excellent technical skills at something: You master your craft. You're hardworking and reliable. Your social life will be much more entertaining this year! Friendships and partnerships are favored.
**Birthdate of:** Bijou Phillips, actress; Debbie Reynolds, entertainer; Annette O'Toole, actress.

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19):** Yesterday I advised you to sugarcoat your conversations with authority figures and parents. The degree to which you did or did not do this becomes apparent today. (Oh yeah.) Be patient.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20):** Others are generally pessimistic today. It seems to be everywhere. Don't let this get to you. It passes in a few days.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20):** You don't feel like sharing anything today. Yesterday, you were upbeat, bright and generous. Today you feel cautious and conservative. Go figure. (These are just changing moods.)

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22):** The Moon is opposite your sign today. And it's not a cooperative Moon today, either. Therefore, tread softly. Be patient. Let others go first. Listen to people.

**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22):** The best way to handle today's energy is to work hard. Just roll up your sleeves and tackle whatever is on your plate. (Go easy with April Fools' jokes.)

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22):** You might feel an extra responsibility or burden concerning children today. Just accept this gracefully. Children need to be cared for, and that's all there is to it.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22):** The responsibilities you have at home might feel slightly oppressive today. Actually, this is just a feeling. You have a whole new point of view of things by Sunday.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21):** Today your glass is not half-full—it's half-empty. This is simply your way of looking at things. Don't worry. Pessimism is rampant today. (It's not just you.)

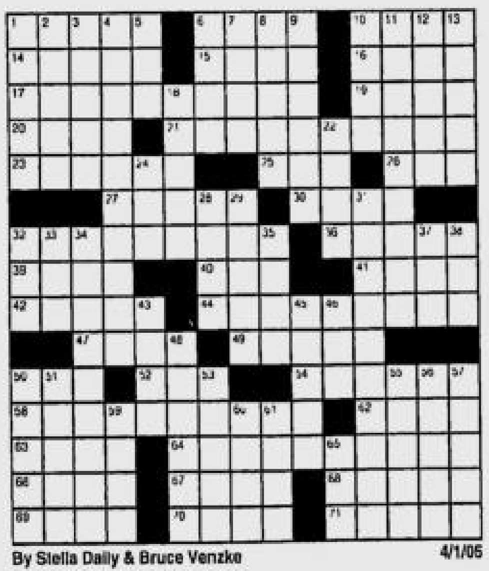
**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21):** You feel quite protective about your money today; you're concerned about saving for a rainy day. That's OK. But don't let money worries get to you, because you'll feel completely different by Sunday.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19):** The Moon is in your sign today. However, it squares three planets (the Sun, Venus and Jupiter). This gives the illusion of hard times, but mainly it's just a headspace. Fear not.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18):** Friendly conversations with others will pick up your spirits today. You need to chat with someone. You need to talk over bad times.

**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20):** Someone older might give you some advice today. Quite likely, it's advice you don't want to hear. Just listen and ponder it later. Like wine, advice often improves with time. (Don't dismiss it out of hand.)

## DAILY CROSSWORD



By Stella Daily & Bruce Venzke
Madison, WI

4/1/05

**ACROSS**
1 Full of lip
6 LP player
10 Part of USNA
14 One of the San Juan Islands
15 School collar
16 Pueblo people
17 Less than seaworthy boat?
19 '60s hairstyle
20 Travel charge
21 Tree of Delphi?
23 Kellogg's rival
25 Blackjack
26 Chicago transp.
27 Ms. Gorbachev
30 Kind of log
32 Herd sounds
36 Cavalry sword
39 Sledgehammer
40 Pasture plant
41 Stooge
42 "Loot" playwright
44 Alternative to chains
47 Grp. of oil men
49 Group psyche
50 Kin of FBI
52 Doesn't lack
54 Lake feeder
58 Complaint about autumn?
62 Singing syllables
63 Accurate
64 Arctic setbacks?
66 Stone
67 First name of 18D
68 First name in late-night TV
69 Invites
70 Classic cars
71 Top of a wave

**DOWN**
1 Beginning of celery?
2 Cupid's missile
3 Head cover
4 Annapolis washout?
5 French fashion letters
6 Lend a hand
7 Me also
8 See 12D
9 Not out-of-bounds
10 Cries of discovery
11 Cafe
12 With 8D, an anagram
13 Christian's frocks
18 "Gymnopedies" composer
22 Numbered composition
24 Rel. day
28 Huff and Jaffe
29 Make amends
31 Expensive tiling option?
32 Ins. option
33 Rower's need
34 No longer fortune's favorite
35 Fine, black stuff
37 Flock female
38 OR workers
43 Radar's drink
45 Buzzing sound in the U.K.
46 Won follower?
48 Wyoming city
50 Talent org.
51 Edible tubers
53 Reproduce like moss
55 Singer Frankie
56 Earthenware pots
57 "The Man Who __ There"
59 Birds' display areas
60 Potpourri
61 Acorns, after time
65 TV watchdog agcy.

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| B | A | R | S | ■ | R | E | C | I | P | E | ■ | C | P | A |
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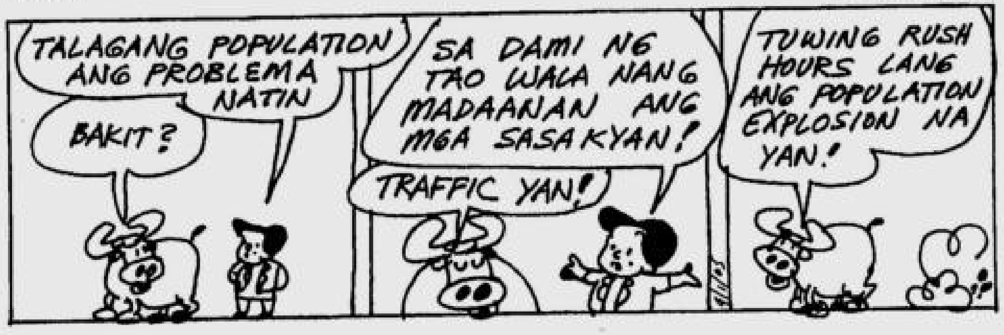
4/1/05

GASFAR
fuel saving tips
KEEP WINDOWS ROLLED UP TO REDUCE DRAG
When driving at top speeds on highways, a running air conditioner is likely to be more efficient than trying to overcome the wind resistance created by open windows.

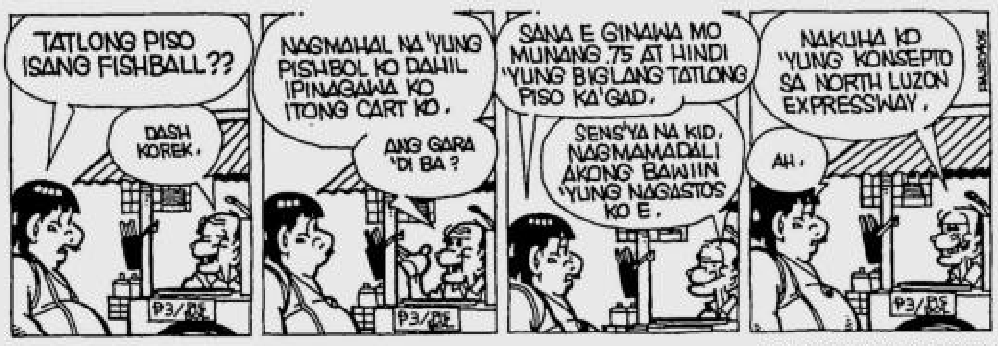
**A. LIPIN**

BY JESS ABRERA


TALAGANG POPULATION ANG PROBLEMA NATIN
BAKIT?
SA DAMI NG TAO WALA NANG MADAANAN ANG MGA SASAKYAN!
TRAFFIC YAN!
TUWING RUSH HOURS LANG ANG POPULATION EXPLOSION NA YAN!

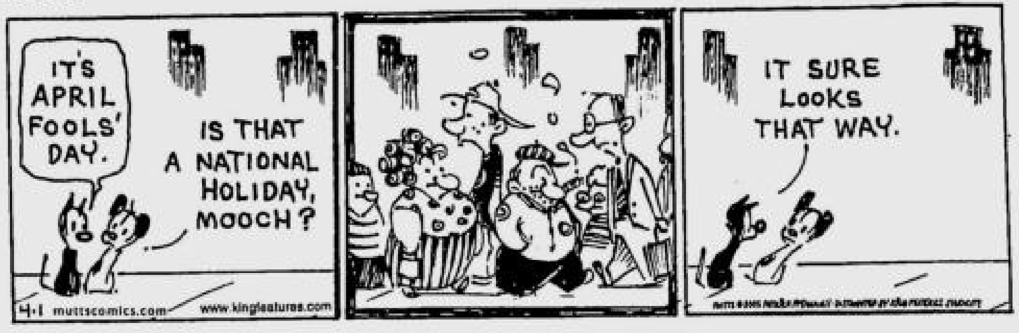
**PUGAD BABOY**

BY P.M. JUNIOR


TATLONG PISO ISANG FISHBALL??
DASH KOREK.
P3/BS
NAGMAHAL NA 'YUNG PISHBOL KO DAHIL IPINAGAWA KO ITONG CART KO.
ANG GARA 'DI BA?
SANA E GINAWA MO MUNANG .75 AT HINDI 'YUNG BIGLANG TATLONG PISO KA'GAD.
SENS'YA NA KID. NAGMAMADALI AKONG BAWIIN 'YUNG NAGASTOS KO E.
NAKUHA KO 'YUNG KONSEPTO SA NORTH LUZON EXPRESSWAY.
AH.

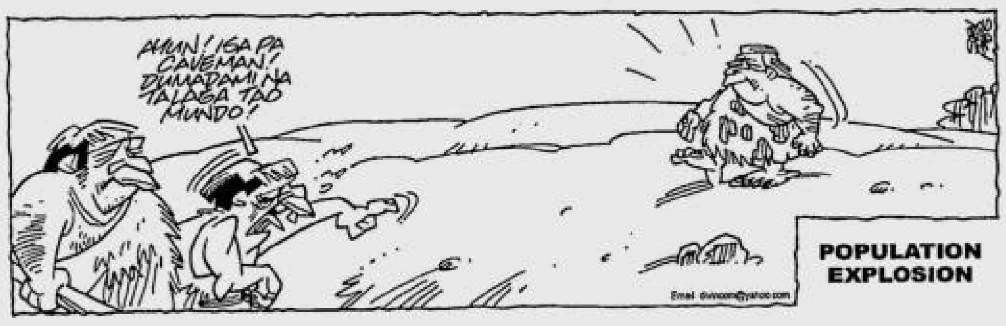
**MUTTS**

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


IT'S APRIL FOOLS' DAY.
IS THAT A NATIONAL HOLIDAY, MOOCH?
IT SURE LOOKS THAT WAY.
4-1 muttscomics.com
www.kingfeatures.com

**DIVINE COMEDY**

BY STEVEN PABALINAS

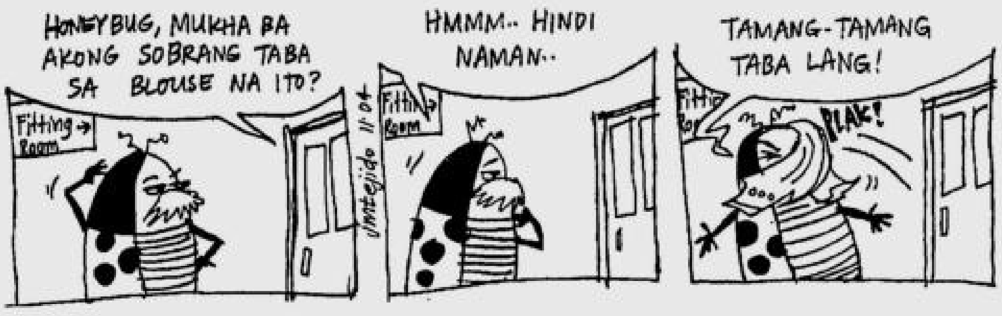

AHAN! ISA PA CAVEMAN! DUMADAMI NA TALAGA TAO MUNDO!

POPULATION EXPLOSION

Email: divcom@yahoo.com

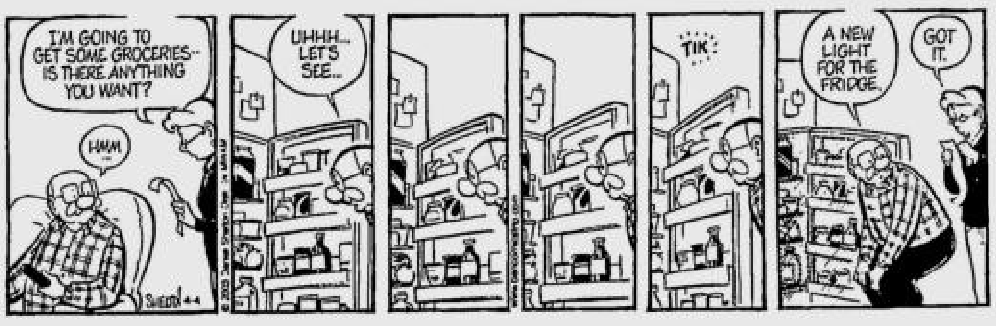
**MIKROKOSMOS**

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


HONEYBUG, MUKHA BA AKONG SOBRANG TABA SA BLOUSE NA ITO?
Fitting Room
HMMM.. HINDI NAMAN..
TAMANG-TAMANG TABA LANG!
PLAK!

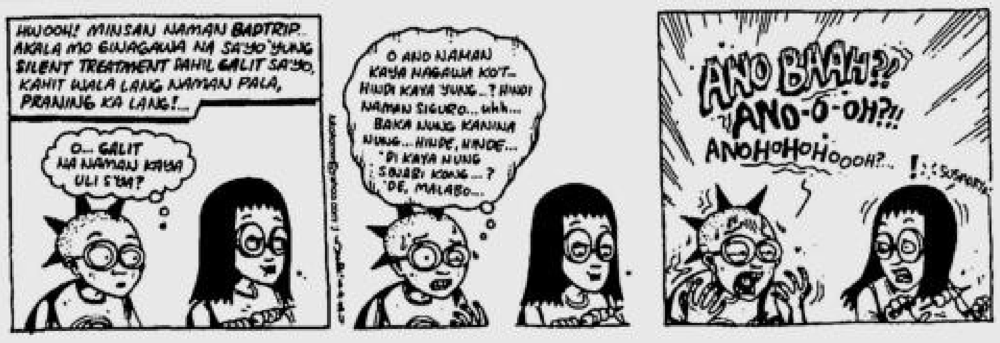
**BEN**

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I'M GOING TO GET SOME GROCERIES-- IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT?
HMM
UHHH... LET'S SEE...
TIK
A NEW LIGHT FOR THE FRIDGE.
GOT IT.

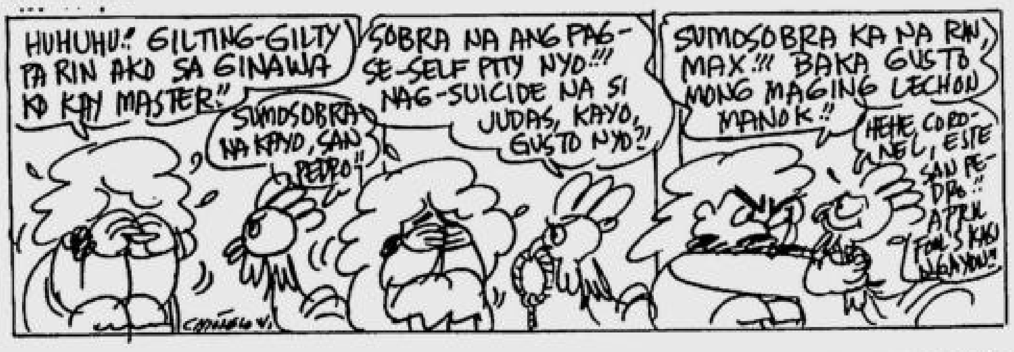
**KIKO MACHINE**

BY MANIX ABRERA


HUOOH! MINSAN NAMAN BADTRIP.. AKALA MO GINAGAWA NA SA'YO 'YUNG SILENT TREATMENT DAHIL GALIT SA'YO, KAHIT WALA LANG NAMAN PALA, PRANING KA LANG!..
O... GALIT NA NAMAN KAYA ULI S'YA?
O ANO NAMAN KAYA NAGAWA KO?.. HINDI KAYA 'YUNG..? HINDI NAMAN SIGURO... uhh... BAKA NUNG KANINA NUNG... HINDE, HINDE... 'DI KAYA NUNG SINABI KONG...? 'DE, MALABO...
ANO BAAH?!! ANO-O-OH?!! ANOHOHOHOOOH?..

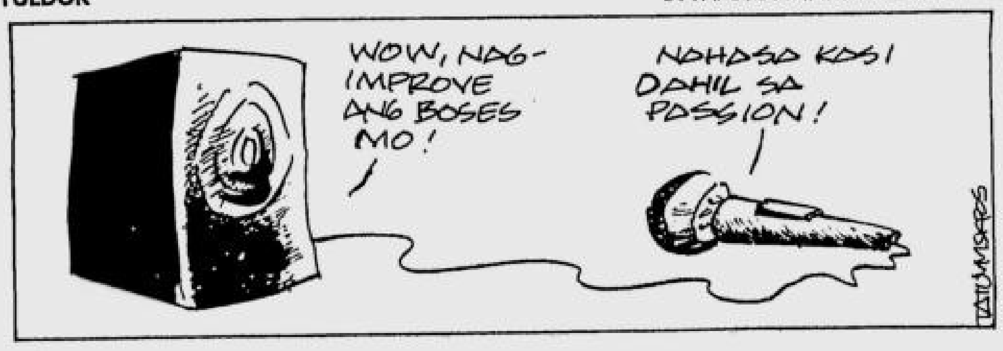
**LOVEKNOTS**

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


HUHUHU!! GILTING-GILTY PA RIN AKO SA GINAWA KO KAY MASTER!!
SUMOSOBRA NA KAYO, SAN PEDRO!!
SOBRA NA ANG PAG-SE-SELF PITY NYO!!! NAG-SUICIDE NA SI JUDAS, KAYO, GUSTO NYO?!
SUMOSOBRA KA NA RIN, MAX!!! BAKA GUSTO MONG MAGING LECHON MANOK!!
HEHE, CORDNEL, ESTE SAN PEDRO.. APRIL FOOLS KAO NGAYOU!

**TULDOK**

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


WOW, NAG-IMPROVE ANG BOSES MO!
NAHASA KASI DAHIL SA PASSION!

# ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

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MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

## GALLERIA
632-9115/16

1 HITCH • THX
12:00 2:35 5:10 7:45 10:00
2 BOOGEYMAN
10:55 1:10 3:25 5:40 7:55 10:00
3 BE COOL
10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
4 ALONE IN THE DARK
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
5 PACIFIER
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
6 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
7 HOSTAGE
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
8 ROBOTS
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
9 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
1:40 4:35 7:30 10:00
10 CONSTANTINE
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

## ERMITA
536-7809 to 12

1 PACIFIER
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
2 HOSTAGE
10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
3 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
4 HITCH
10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
5 ALONE IN THE DARK
10:55 1:05 3:15 5:25 7:35 9:45
6 BOOGEYMAN
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
7 BE COOL
10:30 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

## METRO EAST
682-8193 • 682-8199

1 ROBOTS
10:50 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00
2 HOSTAGE
10:30 1:10 3:50 6:30 9:10
3 CONSTANTINE
11:00 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00
4 HITCH
11:00 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00
5 PACIFIER
10:50 1:10 3:30 5:50 8:10 10:30
6 ALONE IN THE DARK
12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00 10:30
7 BOOGEYMAN
10:45 1:05 3:25 5:45 8:05 10:25
8 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
11:50 2:30 5:10 7:50 10:30

## NOVALICHES
935-3229/31

1 PACIFIER
11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 6:45 8:30
2 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
12:00 2:45 5:30 8:25
3 ROBOTS
1:20 3:40 6:00 8:25
4 HOSTAGE
12:50 3:20 5:50 8:25
5 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD
1:20 3:40 6:00 8:25
6 ALONE IN THE DARK
11:00 1:20 3:40 6:00 8:25
7 RESERVE
8 RESERVE

## PIONEER
687-5378

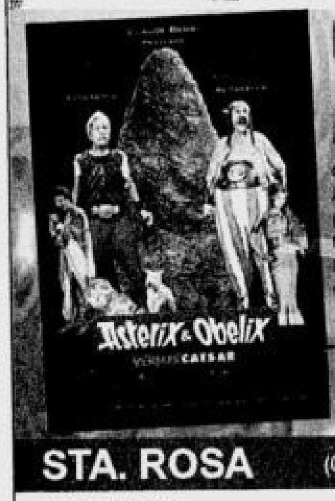
1 PACIFIER
2 ALONE IN THE DARK
3 BOOGEYMAN
4 MS. CONGENIALITY 2

## CITISQUARE MALABON
288-2575

1 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD
2 HITCH
3 ROBOTS
4 MEET THE FOCKERS

## CAINTA
240-4661

1 PACIFIER
2 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
3 HOSTAGE
4 CONSTANTINE



**Asterix & Obelix VERSUS CAESAR** France's favorite funny cartoon heroes in live-action movie!

"The well-known little village from the Asterix and Obelix comic books is in trouble. It is the last place not controlled by Rome. When tax collector Claudius Incorruptus does not get his money from the villagers, Julius Caesar himself comes to the place to see what's so special about their resistance. A special magic potion, prepared by the village's Druid, gives incredible power to those who drink it. Obelix, who fell into the pot as a child, has been invincible ever since. With the help of Tullius Destructivus, an intriguer, the Romans try to get Obelix and the Druid into their hands in order to wipe the little village off the map, when the last potion of its stock has been used up. But each individual also has some plans of his own..."

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**april 06-12**

## STA. ROSA
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1 HOSTAGE
2 NIGHT JOB
3 SEED OF CHUCKY
4 CONFIDENCE
5 ROBOTS

## LIPA
(043) 757-3664
(043) 312-5870

1 ROBOTS
2 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE
3 WITHOUT A PADDLE
4 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
5 SON OF THE MASK 2

## DASMARIÑAS
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(046) 416-4332

1 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
2 SCHOOL FOR SEDUCTION
3 PACIFIER
4 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE
5 THE FINAL CUT

## ANGELES
(045) 892-2348

1 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
2 HELLWOLF
3 THE FINAL CUT
4 HOSTAGE

## IMUS
(046) 875-3838
(046) 471-8188

1 ROBOTS
2 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD
3 HOSTAGE
4 PACIFIER
5 5 CHILDREN AND IT
6 MS. CONGENIALITY 2

## STARMILLS
(045) 875-1927
(045) 961-5270

1 ROBOTS
2 NIGHT JOB
3 HOSTAGE
4 CONFIDENCE
5 CURSED
6 SHAOLIN VS. EVIL DEAD

## BACOLOD
(034) 441-0453
(034) 441-0450

1 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
2 HITCH
3 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
4 BUNSHINSABA
5 SON OF THE MASK 2
6 RAY

## ILOILO
(033) 336-8070

1 CURSED
2 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
3 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
4 HITCH
5 RAY
6 SON OF THE MASK 2

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AYALA CENTER CEBU
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AYALA GREENBELT

**Embassy of Finland**
April 8-9, 2005

## At the Activity Center

| GLORIETTA | ALABANG TOWN CENTER | AYALA CENTER CEBU |
|---|---|---|
| **Fashion Week**<br>**March 28 to April 1, 2005** | **Globelines**<br>April 2, 2005 | **Child Development Center Cebu's Recognition Program Rites**<br>**March 31, 2005** |

Onstage

**REPERTORY PHILIPPINES presents**
**The Little Shop of Horrors**
**at REP's GLOBE THEATER**
**for the Month of March**

AyalaMUSEUM

**Visit the New Ayala Museum located beside Greenbelt 4 along Makati Avenue.**
**For inquiries, please call 757-7117.**

# AYALA CINEMAS

AYALA CINEMAS THX

Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729 7777

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| G4 GLORIETTA 4 | 1 BE COOL | 2 BOOGEYMAN | THX MS. CONGENIALITY 2<br>12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30<br>GUARANTEED SEATS | |
| | 4 HITCH | 5 ROBOTS | 6 THE PACIFIER | 7 ALONE IN THE DARK |
| G1 GLORIETTA 1 | 1 ALONE IN THE DARK | 2 MS. CONGENIALITY 2 | | |
| | 3 THE PACIFIER | 4 BE COOL | | |
| ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER | THX 1 THE PACIFIER | 2 BE COOL | 3 MS. CONGENIALITY 2 | |
| | 4 ROBOTS | 5 BOOGEYMAN | | |
| ACC ALABANG TOWN CENTER | 1 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13 | 2 THE FINAL CUT | 3 BUNSHINSABA | |
| | 4 RAY | 5 CLOSED | | |
| GB1 GREENBELT 1 | 1 MS. CONGENIALITY 2<br>12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40 | | | |
| | 2 THE PACIFIER<br>10:55, 1:00, 3:05, 5:10, 7:15, 9:20 | | | |
| GB3 GREENBELT 3 | THX 1 MISS CONGENIALITY 2<br>1:35, 4:00, 6:25, 8:50, 11:15<br>GUARANTEED SEATS | THX 2 THE PACIFIER<br>1:05, 3:10, 5:15, 7:20, 9:25, 11:30<br>GUARANTEED SEATS | 3 SPANGLISH<br>3:05, 5:35, 8:05, 10:35<br>GUARANTEED SEATS | |
| | 4 BOOGEYMAN<br>1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, [illegible], 10:30<br>GUARANTEED SEATS | 5 BE COOL<br>1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20<br>GUARANTEED SEATS | | |

**NOW SHOWING AT AYALA CINEMAS**
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

Sandra Bullock
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Don't judge an Agent by her cover.

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⑤ Be Cool
⑥ Miss Congeniality 2
⑦ The Pacifier

## EVENTS! EVENTS!

MARKET! MARKET!

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Customer Service text hotline. Glorietta - 752 7272, from 10am to 8pm
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Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS GB4 to 2333(Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

# Tours, Leisure & Chow

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Aries Espinosa, Editor

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A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

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# Fun weekend at The Bellevue Hotel

THE BELLEVUE Weekend Dinner Barbecue is available during Fridays to Sundays at The Bellevue's Poolside - a lush tropical getaway that lends a pleasant ambience to uplift tired souls. Enjoy the cool breezes while dining al fresco and listening to soothing acoustic music. Watch the kids soak up the sun and play by the hotel's swimming pool, after which they can choose from a wide selection of tender and succulent barbecues and fresh fruit juices to re-energize. For those who wish to be pampered, the gym, spa and salon are but a few steps away, offering a broad range of Eastern and Western face and body treatments.

The Bellevue's Weekend Dinner Barbecue promo is available from 5 to 10 p.m. for an introductory price of only P690+. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

The Bellevue's Weekend Dinner Barbecue promo is available from 5 to 10 p.m. for an introductory price of only P690+.

# A safe and secure home

**STAFF** and management of Somerset Millennium, Makati with the Makati Fire Department

SOMERSET Serviced Residences, Manila, recently held its Annual Full-Scale Fire and Emergency Evacuation Drill in line with the observation of Fire Prevention month in March.

The staff of Somerset Millenium, Somerset Olympia and Somerset Salcedo Makati view this drill as a vital annual exercise to ensure all its employees are familiar with emergency response plans. The safety and security of their guests are a priority as its residences provide a home away from home for business executives on assignment and their families.

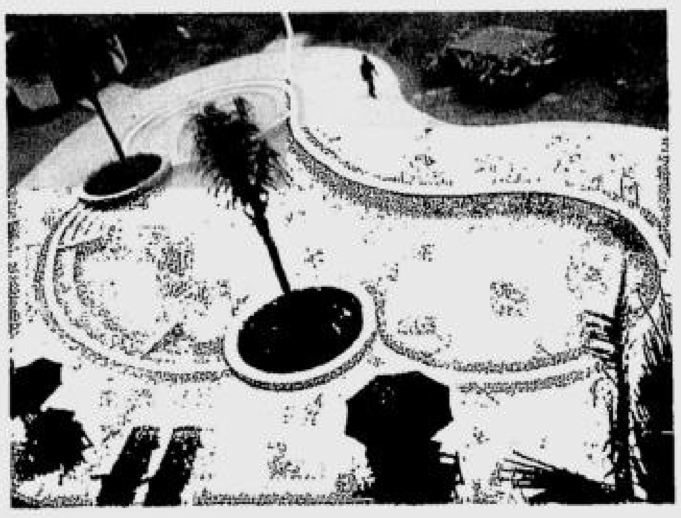
During the drill, Somerset's area security manager, Juan Del Prado worked with the Bureau of Fire Protection, and Makati Fire Marshall's Office. Each property went through a simulation of a fire and emergency crisis, and conducted an evacuation exercise and high rise rescue. Concessionaires and participating guests were also given outdoor briefings and hands-on exercises on how to extinguish a fire.

Guests who participated in the exercise were pleased with their learning experiences in the meaningful activity.

Arthur Gindap, area general manager, said: "The management of Somerset residences is committed to ensuring the safety and security of our guests, staff and properties. We are meticulous in implementing and exceeding the safety guidelines and recommendations from authorities such as the Bureau of Fire Protection and Fire Marshall's Office."

Somerset Serviced Residences, Manila is a member of The Ascott Group, a leading international serviced residence chain with 13,800 units. The Group is represented by The Ascott, Somerset and Citadines brands in 40 cities in 17 countries.

For more information on their properties here in Manila, contact them through their Central Sales Office at (63-2) 888-0505 or email them at enquiry.manila@the-ascott.com. Visit the website at www.the-ascott.com.



# Fuego your summer

FIRE up your summer and enjoy the luxurious yet affordable accommodations at The Pearl Farm Beach Resort in Davao. For only P3,500 avail of overnight accommodations at the quiet Hilltop House, take-in the beautiful sunsets at the Samal House for only P3,750, or the Mandaya House tucked away at the next cove for only P5,400. All rooms are inclusive of welcome drinks, full-board meals, roundtrip airport/boat transfers and complimentary use of recreational facilities. FuegoYourSummer at Pearl Farm and catch the activities in store: Kids Adventure Challenge, Pearl Farm Olympics, Mother's Day and so much more.

Add some fire into your summer. Enjoy summers sizzle and excitement at the new Taal Vista Hotel in cool, scenic Tagaytay. Enjoy and savor barbecue nights at the Café-on-the-Ridge every Saturday for only P400 net while being entertained by the famed Taal "firewalkers". From April to September, avail of the hotel's promo "45% off"! Stay 2 nights and get 45 percent discount on your third night or on your next visit. For thrill-seekers, avail of the Trekking Package for only P3,425 (twin sharing) that already includes overnight accommodations in a superior room, breakfast, Taal Volcano trekking and horseback riding adventure with a guide plus a packed lunch and roundtrip transfers from the hotel to the excursion site. Taal Vista also offers the "Wow Weekday Treat" for only P3,400 net inclusive of superior overnight accommodations and breakfast for 2. Take advantage of the great Taal Vista hospitality and cool climate minus the crowd and the weekend hassle.

For inquiries and reservations, call Taal Vista Hotel at (02)751-3088/89 or (02)886-4325. Pearl Farm Beach Resort at (02)750-1896/98 or (082)235-0876. Taal Vista Hotel and Pearl Farm Beach Resort are both managed by Fuego Hotels & Properties Management Corporation.

**EVENT MANAGEMENT TEAM RECEIVES AWARD**

**New World Renaissance Hotel's Event Management Team was recognized for the third time as the 'Event Management Team' of the year for the Asia Pacific and Australia region in the 2005 Marriott International Leaders Meeting held in Sanya, China. They were awarded for their exceptional handling of special and high profile banquet events that include various embassies and business chamber functions. Impressively, this is the team's third award in a row for the region. All in all, the Event Management group has garnered six prestigious awards from the Marriott group in the last three years. Other awards given were: "Event Manager" 2002 to director of event management Susan Roxas; and two other special achievement awards.**

## LAS PALMAS AND PALM PLAZA HOTELS' RICE TO GO

**For the people always on the go, Rice To Go is perfect to bring along with. Available at Sta. Fe Coffee Shop and Cocoy's Restaurant of Las Palmas Hotel and Palm Plaza Hotel respectively, the Rice To Go has delicious toppings to choose from. Try their mouthwatering rice toppings variations: "sisig," "chopsuey," "pork adobo," "beef kaldereta," bistek tagalog," "kare-kare," and "danging rendang." For reservations, call Sta. Fe Coffee Shop at 521-1000 or Cocoy's Restaurant at 522-1000.**

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# ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
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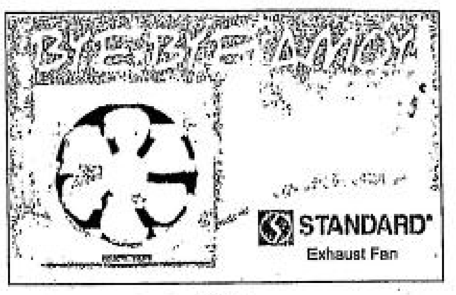
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Exhaust Fan

# Furor over Angel ad

By Marinel R. Cruz

TELEVIEWERS are seeing less and less of Angel Locsin's sexy Axe Deodorant commercial because its producer, Unilever Philippines Inc., is "slowly" pulling it out of the airwaves, INQUIRER Entertainment learned yesterday.

Unilever said it received complaints from various women's groups, as well as from former Sen. Nikki Coseteng, who protested the "offensive manner" in which women were presented in Axe's "Choose the Girl, Spend Her Money" promo ads.

"It was not our intention to degrade women," said Unilever PR manager Ivan Panganiban. "The commercial was simply meant to promote a unique date-shopping experience. The intention was to make it light, modern and fun."

## Seductive

The Axe promo gives five men a chance to win P500,000 worth of shopping money and a date with Angel or four other sexy women. One commercial in the series features a jacket-clad Angel Locsin apparently seducing a man by showing him her sexy tube top and mini-skirt. The guy ignores Angel and grabs the money tucked in her jacket pockets instead.

"There are more tasteful ways to convey a message to the public," Coseteng told INQUIRER Entertainment on Wednesday. "I find the commercial offensive to the sensibility and sensitivity of the people."

But the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) disagrees. "I don't find anything objectionable in Angel's outfit. There is also nothing morally wrong about a man spending his prize money with his dream date. The money did not come from Angel, anyway," said MTRCB chair Marissa Laguardia.

Coseteng pointed out that she was not after Angel but the people behind the commercial.

"This is not personal. It doesn't matter who starred in the commercial," she argued. "Unilever is a multi-national company; it is respected and reputable. It doesn't need to go down this low. It is not befitting the stature of the company. This will ultimately reflect on Unilever's bosses since they have a hand in how their products are marketed."

## Serious

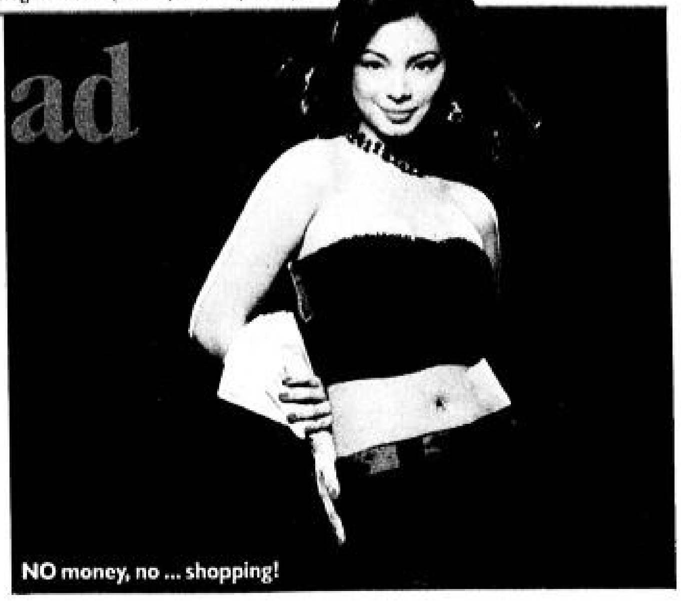
Panganiban countered: "We are concerned about our company's integrity so we really sit it through. Each project undergoes a stringent process of deliberation before it is approved. We take this seriously. Just imagine the amount of money that we spend."

According to Panganiban, the commercial could not be completely pulled out because of Unilever's "commitment" with the Bureau of Food and Drugs. "We are still complying with BFAD regulations. We are committed to run it for a specific period of time," Panganiban explained. "However, we can't ignore the feedback we get from people, so we're really cutting it short. That is a company prerogative."

Panganiban added that Unilever was also concerned about Axe consumers, "who might get the wrong impression that nothing happened to the promo."

With Angel in the commercial are TV jock/singer Ayanna Oliva, cheer dancer Bubbles Paraiso, student Paula MacCormac and fashion model Rashel Piazza.

*(e-mail the author at mcruz@inquirer.com.ph)*



NO money, no ... shopping!

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Gretchen B unplugged /A2-3
■ Your weekend gimmick guide /A2-2

# Disney settles with Miramax —for $100M

LOS ANGELES—Miramax Films co-founders Bob and Harvey Weinstein will end their successful, but often tumultuous, 12-year relationship with The Walt Disney Co. to launch their own media company, Disney and the Weinsteins said.

The announcement on Tuesday ends months of difficult talks between Disney and the Weinsteins, who reluctantly leave the name of their company behind. Miramax is a combination of the names of their parents, Miriam and Max.

The financial terms of the settlement were not disclosed.

But a source familiar with the talks said Disney would make a cash payment to the Weinsteins of around $100 million, which includes salary and bonuses owed to the brothers as well as their participation in various projects.

## Name stays

As expected, Disney will retain the Miramax name and the library of more than 800 films. The Weinsteins will keep the Dimension Films label and the two companies will co-produce certain projects, including sequels to such Dimension hits as "Scary Movie" and "Spy Kids."

While the Weinsteins were tremendous creative forces at Disney, Miramax's financial contributions were a relatively small percentage of the entertainment company's overall film revenues.

The Weinsteins have already begun to seek financing for their new company, which will temporarily be called "The Weinstein Co." The advisory board for the new venture includes various investment

DISNEY/ A2-2

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# King on top of the world

SHOW TIME

KING stars in his first major solo concert, "King on Top of the World," April 13 and 14 at the Music Museum.

The two-night event coincides with the singer's birthday celebration on the 14th. His manager, Hanzel Villafuerte of Dyamix, couldn't be happier: "After several hit records and gigs, this solo concert is the logical next step for him."

King shares the stage with his sister Nina, fellow Dynamix artists Nicole and Sanchez, and The Band Called Rush.

Show time is 9 p.m. Tickets available at the Music Museum and Ticketworld outlets. Call 721-6726 or 891-9999.

### Anne and Geoff at Market!

Anne Curtis and Geoff Eigenmann, stars of the TV hit series "Hiram," are special guest entertainers at the opening on April 10 of The Pizza Company, level 2 of Market! Market! in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.

### Tonight

Winston in Concert presents Prime Council at Virgin Cafe along Tomas Morato in QC.

Ella May Saison performs at the Discovery Suites' Serendipity Lounge, 9 p.m.

"Nyoy and Mannos Salute the Beatles" at the Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental. (Repeats on April 8, 15 and 29.)

PRIME Council

Gary V and Roxie Barcelo in the second leg of "Gary V Hits ... Philippine Tour" at the Leyte National High School in Tacloban City, and on April 9 at the Pana-ad Park and Sports Complex in Bacolod City.

### Tomorrow

Jeffrey Hidalgo will perform at Robinsons Pioneer along Edsa Mandaluyong tomorrow. The show is part of a mall tour to promote his latest album, "Jeffrey 05."

Rachelle Ann Go at Robinsons Angeles.

The Department of Education's Cantus Firmus Chorale stars in "Sinalaya 05" a Teatro Marikina, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Ken Punzalan of GMA 7's "StarStruck" is special guest. Admission is free. "Panaghoy ng mga Bata," a fund-raising gig spearheaded by Cesar Montano at Merk's Bar Bistro, 8 p.m.

Rebekah at the Manila Mandarin's Captain's Bar.

Divo Bayer performs at Arkdia with 2004's "Star in a Million" grand champion Frenchie Dy. Arkdia is located at Remedios Street, Malate, Manila. Call 400-9776.

JEFFREY Hidalgo

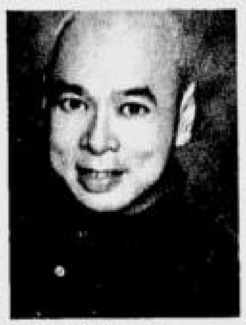
### April 3

Rachelle Ann Go at Robinsons Cainta.

### April 4

Club Mwah! presents "Follies de Mwah 2" Mondays through Fridays at 10 p.m. Call 535-7943.

"Tosca Puno ... It's Time" 9 p.m. at Merk's. Special guests are Tosca's father, Rico J. Puno, Richard Merk and Rox Puno. Albert de Pano performs before the show.



RAMON Acoymo

### April 7

Robert Seña and Isay Alvarez kick off Thursday gigs at Merks' this month. The Company's Rueben Laurente sings before the show. For inquiries, call 757-4750.

Dance diva Sybil performs at the Glorietta Activity Center, 7 p.m.

### April 8

Ramon Acoymo, Dean of the UP College of Music, will be the featured tenor soloist for the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra's season finale at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Main Theater, 8 p.m.

"Bedazzled," an hour-long Broadway cum Las Vegas show at Club Mwah (Fridays and Saturdays), 10:30 p.m. Call 535-7943.

Acoustic Jive at Merk's.

Sybil at Alabang Town Center. 6 p.m.

Tim Tayag, Al Manalo and Mike Unson in "April Fools—Stand Up Comedians On The Loose!" 7 p.m. at San Mig El Pueblo, Ortigas. Call 637-5499.

### April 13 and 14

King holds his first major solo concert, "King on Top of the World," at the Music Museum on April 13 and 14 at 9 p.m. Call 721-6726.

### April 29

Lito Camo, the songwriter of such phenomenal novelty hits as "Spageti Song," "Bulaklak," "Pito-Pito" and "Otso-Otso," takes center stage in his first major concert, *"Lagi na Lang Kayo ... Ako Naman!"* at the Music Museum on April 29, 8:30 p.m. For ticket inquiries, call 891-9999.

Acoustic Jive at Merk's.

Rachelle Ann Go in concert at Aliw Theater with Mark Bautista, Christian Bautista, Jay-R and Ogie Alcasid as special guests.

### April 30

Aretha and the Souled Out Band at Merk's.

### May 13 and 15

Alvin Barcelona, a Catholic lay preacher and singer-songwriter, in his first major concert, "Believe," at the Party Central, Mother Ignacia Avenue. For inquiries, reservations and sponsorships, call Beaconlight, 722-9562, or e-mail beacon@philonline.com.

KING

### May 6 to 29

Once On This Island, a musical retelling of the Little Mermaid fable, runs from May 6 to 29 with Friday and Saturday evening shows at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinee shows at 3 p.m. at the Carlos P. Romulo Theater, RCBC Plaza, Makati City. For interested fund-raising groups and sponsors, call 536-5844.

### May 13 and 14

Ella May Saison is back with a concert series called "Soulful, the Concert" at the Music Museum on May 13 and 14. Nina, Akafellas and Jimmy Bondoc will be her guests. For details, call TicketWorld at 891-9999.

### May 13 and 15

Alvin Barcelona, a Catholic lay preacher and singer-songwriter, in his first major concert, "Believe," at the Party Central, Mother Ignacia Avenue. For inquiries, reservations and sponsorships, call Beaconlight, 722-9562, or e-mail beacon@philonline.com.

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Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 BAHAY NI LOLA
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1 BAHAY NI LOLA
2 NED KELLY
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4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) SHAOLIN VS' EVILDEAD
5 THE PACIFIER

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3 RESERVED
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5 (DOLBY) MS. CONGENIALITY 2
6 THE PACIFIER

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2 FINAL CUT
3 (DOLBY) HOSTAGE
4 FIVE CHILDREN

Cine Nepo (Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
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3 (DOLBY) BUNSHINSABA
4 BAHAY NI LOLA

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2 BAHAY NI LOLA

Mega Center Mall (Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
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2 NED KELLY
3 ROBOTS
4 (DOLBY) HITCH

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 MASK-2 SON OF THE MASK
2 NED KELLY
3 BAHAY NI LOLA
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ROBOTS 1:15 / 3:50 / 6:25 / 9:00
THE PACIFIER 1:20 / 3:55 / 6:30 / 9:05
ALONE IN THE DARK 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30
MISS CONGENIALITY 2 1:15 / 4:00 / 6:45 / 9:30
BOOGEYMAN 12:00 / 2:15 / 4:30 / 6:45 / 9:00
A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS 1:15 / 3:40
HITCH 1:15 / 3:50 / 6:25 / 9:00
MILLION DOLLAR BABY 6:05 / 9:00
HOSTAGE 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
ALI MALL CINEMAS
❶ MISS CONGENIALITY 2 11:55 / 2:40 / 5:25 / 8:10
❷ THE PACIFIER 12:35 / 3:10 / 5:45 / 8:20
❸ BOOGEYMAN 11:35 / 1:55 / 4:15 / 6:35 / 8:55
❹ ALONE IN THE DARK 1:00 / 3:20 / 5:40 / 8:00
❺ SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD 11:20 / 1:45 / 4:10 / 6:35 / 9:00
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ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE APR. 1 4:45pm SHELL vs SAN MIGUEL 7:35pm RED BULL vs STA LUCIA
2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE APR. 3 4:45pm TALK N TEXT vs COCA COLA 7:35pm PUREFOODS vs ALASKA
CENTER EVENTS
SALE EVENTS Fornarina- Upper Ground Floor, Gateway Mall (ongoing until April 15)
NEW STORES Papyvore and A Different Bookstore at Shopwise Arcade
PERFORMANCES Guarana on April 1, Shanice Michaels on April 2 & Cooky Chua on April 3 at The Gazebo of Gateway Mall
LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

## Disney settles with ...

From page A2-1

bankers and media executives as well as Robert Redford and Paul Newman, Harvey Weinstein said during a conference call with reporters.

The separation deal ends a partnership that was marked by artistic achievements, including multiple Academy Awards for such Miramax films as "The English Patient" and "Chicago," and a behind-the-scenes antagonism between the Weinsteins and Disney chief executive Michael Eisner.

### Costly films

Disney chafed at the Weinsteins' desire to make larger, more costly films, and turned down the idea of Miramax producing Peter Jackson's "The Lord of the Rings" film trilogy. The films were eventually made by New Line Cinema, a subsidiary of Time Warner Inc., and earned more than $1 billion at the North American box office alone.

The Weinstein brothers will stay at Disney on a non-exclusive basis through September. Disney will name a new head of Miramax by July, the company said.

Disney shares fell 27 cents to $27.90 in trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

*AP*

# The plane truth about Cascades

**By Steve O'Neal**
*Contributor*

THE PERSISTENT rumor that members of the 1960s best-selling group Cascades all perished in a plane crash at the peak of their career won't die despite repeated explanations on my radio show over dzRJ and countless information dispatches. Every night I would get an odd text message or call claiming that the guys *really* are dead.

I tried to track down the source of this nasty rumor; it obviously is of Philippine origin. But since it is also at least 40 years old, the rumor monger could actually be dead by now.

There was nothing left for me to do but make my own research from the files of the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) and NTSB (National Transportation Safety Board). See below a list of popular American singers who died in plane mishaps from the '50s to the present.

There's no record of John Claude Gummoe or any member of the Cascades. Although the group's drummer, Dave Wilson recently passed away.

John, whom we—I, Joey de Leon and his wife Eileen—visited early this month first week of this month in his Tujunga, California, home, laughed heartily every time I reminded him to prove he was not a ghost.

He told us that this Holy Week, the Cascades' remaining members would be holed up in his Palm Springs home for intensive practice. They are due in Manila in mid-April for special performances, the first time for the group in over 30 years.

A dinner concert is set April 14 at the Hard Rock Café, featuring Ramon Jacinto & Friends, and The Elderly Brothers. The next evening, the Cascades will perform at the Araneta Coliseum, with guests Willie Nepomuceno. On April 16, the group goes to Cebu City for a concert at the Waterfront Hotel with Area One.

*Steve O'Neal is producing the Cascades' concerts in the Philippines.*

| DATE | ARTIST | CRASH SITE | AIRCRAFT | HIT SONG |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Feb. 3, 1959 | Buddy Holly | Iowa USA | Beechcraft Bonanza | Peggy Sue |
| Feb. 3, 1959 | Ritchie Valens | Iowa USA | Beechcraft Bonanza | La Bamba |
| Feb. 3, 1959 | Big Bopper | Iowa USA | Beechcraft Bonanza | Chantilly Lace |
| Mar. 5, 1963 | Patsy Cline | Tennessee USA | Piper Comanche | Crazy |
| July 31, 1964 | Jim Reeves | Tennessee USA | Beechcraft 35-B33 | He'll Have To Go |
| Dec. 10, 1967 | Otis Redding | Wisconsin USA | Beechcraft H18 | Sitting On The Dock |
| Sep. 20, 1973 | Jim Croce | Louisiana USA | Beechcraft E185 | Time In A Bottle |
| Aug. 12, 1974 | Bill Chase | Minnesota USA Piper | Comanche PA30 | Get It On |
| Oct. 21, 1977 | Lynrd Skynrd | Mississippi USA | Convair | Sweet Home Alabama |
| Aug. 12, 1985 | Kyu Sakamoto | Gumma Japan | Boeing 747 | Sukiyaki |
| Dec. 31, 1985 | Ricky Nelson | Texas USA | Douglas DC-3 | Someday |
| Aug. 27, 1990 | Stevei R. Vaughn | Wisconsin USA | Bell Helicopter | Crossfire |
| Oct. 12, 1977 | John Denver | California USA | Rutan Long EZ | My Sweet Lady |
| Aug. 25, 2001 | Aaliyah | Bahamas | Cessna 402 | Try Again |
| Nov. 24, 2001 | Melanie Thornton | Switzerland | Crossair | Be My Lover |

**FIRST set of swappers**

# 'Wife Swap' on Hallmark

IMAGINE trading homes, husbands and children, dealing with a whole new and strange family for two straight weeks? The phenomenal reality television program "Wife Swap" shows what happens when women do this.

Despite suggestive title, "Wife Swap" offers couples a chance to renew marriage vows. It is not a competition. Every week, two fortunate—or unfortunate—families try on each other's lives for size while the viewing public sits back and watches the ensuing commotion.

The Hallmark Channel gives Filipino audiences the chance to see these American families on the show that won the Best Factual Series award from the British Academy of Film and Television Arts. The London Daily Express described it as "the compulsive reality show that has us all nailed to the couch, agog."

"Wife Swap" airs starting April 15.

The Hallmark Channel, the leading family network in the Asia-Pacific region, is available at Sky Cable and all Cable Boss affiliates.

# Gretchen B unplugged

TAKE FIVE

"INFURIATINGLY beautiful," is how TV host Boy Abunda describes actress Gretchen Barretto.

She has long distanced herself from show biz, preferring to spend time with 10-year-old daughter Dominique and partner Tonyboy Cojuangco, or boxing at the Elorde gym. She's aloof, too, and retiring, literally—she's almost always in bed by 9 p.m. And yet she is a much sought-after interview subject and product endorser.

**Very quickly, what are you really like?**

"Mababaw (easy to get)," she says. "I laugh at the corniest of jokes—any little thing. But cry easily as well. I cried when Gina de Venecia's daughter died. To me, that was tragic."

**But devoted followers also know that you are one tough cookie.**

My mom (Inday Barretto) instilled that in all her kids with a single advice: "Never start a fight but never run from one." Me, I keep things to myself. *Medyo* delayed reaction *nga ako eh*. You know, the little things that you do to me ... I fight back only when it gets too much. But I believe in the law of karma. I don't push anyone ... until I am pushed."

**Do you fear anything?**

I shriek at the mere sight of roaches. I'm afraid of heights ... of eeky, slimy, ugly creatures.

**What hurts you?**

Betrayal. Unworthy people who are unappreciative of things that I do for them.

**And then what happens?**

I stay away. I ask people around me not to talk about the situation, or the people involved. I go on with life. I box. I bake. I cook.

**Comfort food?**

Oh, chocolates! I have to have them, always. And yogurt! Cereals, things that are very healthy.

**Favorite people?**

My real treasures, of course—Tony and Dominique. Plus my cousins and friends who are very wonderful to me.

**Is the hate list longer?**

The love list is.

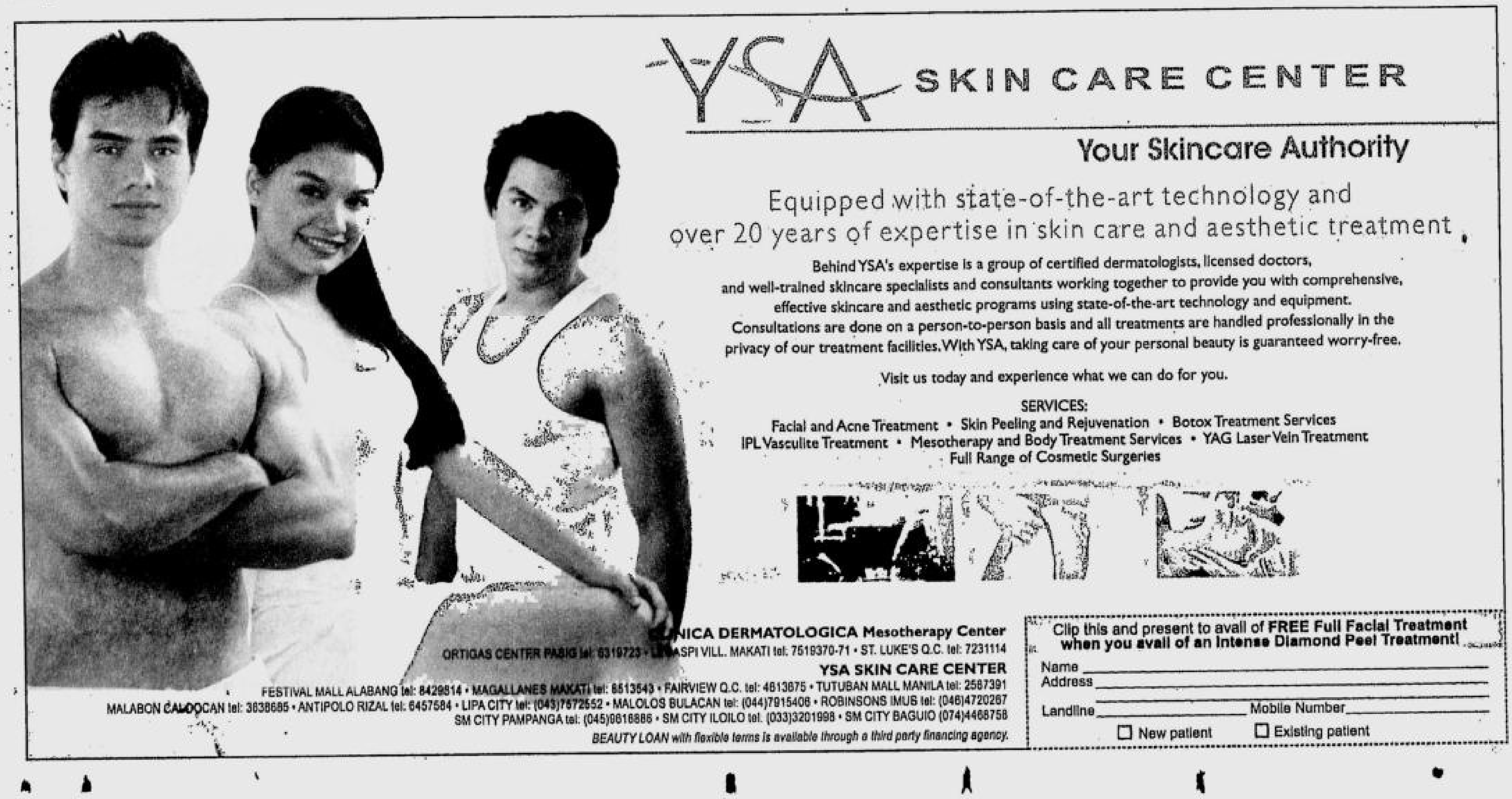
**How do you handle problems?**

If a problem doesn't kill you, it can only make you strong. If you go through the pain and survive, then it becomes very good. That's something money can't buy.

**You radiate a sense of ... completeness. Where does it come from?**

Knowing and accepting completes me. Knowing that life can't be perfect and accepting and acknowledging all the hurt. As one of the movies I've seen says ... it's not how low you fall but how high you rise after. I'm glad I've grown to be this strong. Everyone stumbles, but not everyone gets back on their feet.

PHOTOS BY APRIL SON FOR PLAINS & PRINTS



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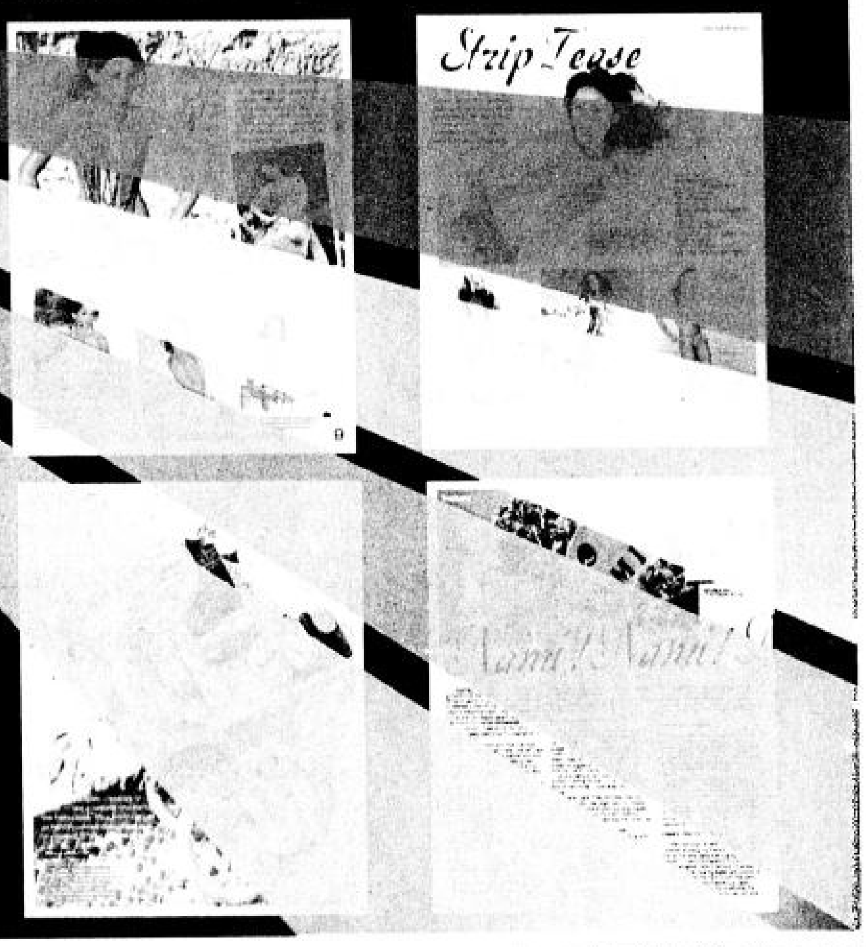
it's showtime!
Photography TOM EPPERSON
Digital Retouching DIX
Styling JENNI EPPERSON
Makeup XENG ZULUETA for Shu Uemura
Hair FELICITY SON
Maillot, LOUNGERIE By Celine Lopez

* JUST SHOP magazine is given FREE to Inquirer subscribers in Metro Manila. If you want to be a subscriber, call 528-0183 or 527-3348.

**Set shores ablaze as you strip, tease, and strike a pose.**

- **Jenni Epperson** plays her Hala Bira mantra of **Nami! Nami! Nami!** in admiration of the ultimate summer destination
- Catch the **Island Fever** with fun, flirty, and absolutely sexy **Must-Haves** of beach cover-ups
- Showing off sexy maillots and a marvelous bod, take a sneak peek on the Next Attraction with celebrity model **Ornusa Cadness**
- Escape Packing made easy with Downtime Dressing tips from shopping star **Leica Carpo**

**So what are you waiting for?**
**Lights...Camera...JUST SHOP!**



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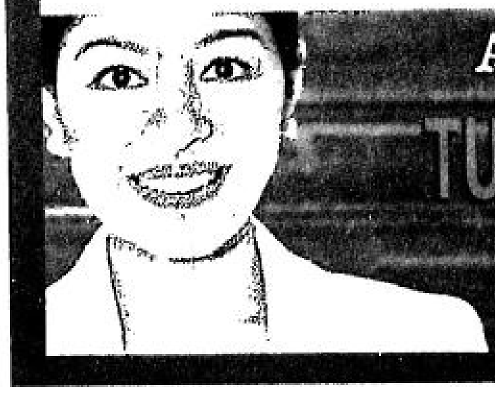
INQUIRER

## TV GUIDE
Friday, April 1, 2005

| Channel | 2:30PM | 3:00PM | 3:30PM | 4:00PM | 4:30PM | 5:00PM | 5:30PM | 6:00PM | 6:30PM | 7:00PM | 7:30PM | 8:00PM | 8:30PM | 9:00PM | 9:30PM | 10:00PM | 10:30PM | 11:00PM | 11:30PM |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ABS-CBN 2 | Kapamilya Cinema | | | | Showbiz No. 1 (4.25 PM) | Gatekeepers (5.10 PM) | Gundam Seed (5.35 PM) | The Road To Stardom | TV Patrol | | Spirits | Krystala | Hiram | Save The Last Dance | Til Death Do Us Part | Search For A Star In A Million | | | Insider |
| NBN | Value Vision | Value Vision | | Value Vision | Teledyaryo | Value Vision | | GSIS Member's Hour | | Network Forum | | Teledyaryo | | 9th Tinig Awards | | | | Ugnayang Pambansa | |
| ABC 5 | | | Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko | PBA Game-Bol | PBA | | PBA | | Sentro | PBA | | | | | Big News | TNA Impact | | Billboard On-Air | |
| GMA 7 | | Saang Sulok Ng Langit | Joyride | Glass Shoes | One Piece | Knock Out | Trykor Hungry Heart | 24 Oras | | Extra Challenge | | Mulawin | | Full House | Stairway To Heaven | Bubble Gang | | | Saksi |
| RPN 9 | Metro TV Shopping | | | Hey Arnold! | As Told By Ginger | Wild Thornberries | Sponge Bob | Entertainment Tonight | Just For Laughs | Enterprise | | Monk | | Dead Zone | | Newswatch Now | Freestyle All Hits | | |
| IBC 13 | | Lifestyle | | EZ Shop | | Home Shopping Network | IBC Express Balita | Lifestyle | | Home Shopping Network | | Mosconi Cup | | | | | IBC News Tonite | Pulis Na Patalban | GMA The Working President |
| Solar | | WWE Velocity | | Thunder Box | | Rastal | Ozzy & Drix | Mucha Lucha! | The Sib Show | Stargate SG1 | | WWE Smackdown | | | | WWE Velocity | | Wow | |
| Nickelodeon | | | | | All That | Are You Afraid of the Dark? | 100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd | The Amanda Show | The Adventures Jimmy Neutron | Fairly Odd Parents | SpongeBob SquarePants | 1, 2, 3 | Nick Mix | | | | | | Rugrats |
| MYX | | Urban MYX | | Pop MYX | OPM MYX | Take 5 | My MYX | MYX Daily Top Ten | | Mellow MYX | Rock MYX | Pop MYX | Urban MYX | Star MYX | Club MYX | My MYX | MYX Backtrax | OPM MYX | Mellow MYX |
| ETC | Change of Heart | Blind Date | Fifth Wheel | Starting Over | | JKX | Knock First | Seinfeld | Ambush Makeover | Arrested Development | Significant Others | Joan Of Arcadia | | Average Joe | | Entertainment Tonight | The Insider | High School Reunion | |
| Studio 23 | | Urban MYX | Rock MYX | Pop MYX | OPM MYX | Jimmy Neutron, Boy Genius | Xiaolin Showdown | Teen Titans | Justice League | | | Barkada Nights | | | | News Central | Oprah | | Yes Dear |
| AXN | | Snatch | | | | | Now See This | Samurai X | | Andromeda (Season III) | | Hollywood's Greatest Stunts | Rated X | Cold Squad | | The Cable Guy | | | |
| Star World | | The Bold & The Beautiful | | Hollywood Squares | Home Improvement | Ally McBeal | | The Simpsons | The Drew Carey Show | Star News Asia | Friends | TNA Wrestling | | Totally Outrageous Behavior Caught On Tape | Weird TV | Really Caught In The Act | | Friends | Totally Outrageous Behavior Caught On Tape |
| CNN | | | | Business International | | Larry King Live | | World News | World Sport | Business International | | World News Asia | | World News | World Sport | World News Asia | | World News | World Sport |
| National Geographic | | | | | | | | The Snake Wranglers | Croc Chronicles Dr. Brady Barr | Wow | | About Asia | | Nat'l Geographic Specials | | Edge Of Universe | | | |
| Solar Sports | | IBF German Open '05 | | NBA Fan Favorite | | | | WTA Proximus '05 Diamond Williams vs. Mauresmo | | | | In This Corner | | NBa Game Minnesota @ Lakers | | | | | GWS Ep 13-2005 |
| Lifestyle Network | Country Style | Interiors By Design | Decorating With Style | Decorating Cents | Molto Mario | Sweet Dreams | 30 Minute Meals | Bill Boggs Corner | Unwrapped | Ming's Quest | | | | | | | Back To Basics | | |
| HBO | Swing Double (2.20 PM) | | | Mack The Knife (3.50 PM) | | | | Laughter On The 23rd Floor | | | Maximum Velocity | | | Dragonheart | | | Two Weeks Notice | Psycho (11.05PM) | |
| Star Movies | | | Hollywood One On One | Hunter: Return To Justice | | | Rushmore | | | Grosse Pointe Blank (7.10 PM) | | | | Mystery Men | | | | | |
| Cartoon Network | Scooby-Doo Show | The All New Popeye Show | | Tom & Jerry Show | The Woody Woodpecker Show | Sylvester & Tweety Mysteries | Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles | Justice League Unlimited | Toon Pick | Yu-Gi-Oh! | Shaman King | The Looney Tunes Show | | The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy | Courage The Cowardly Dog | Ed, Edd N Eddy | Megas XLR | Aqua Teen (11.15PM) | Yu-Gi-Oh! |
| Disney Channel | Mr Bean: The Animated Series | Totally Spies | The Sleepover Club | Art Attack/ Unstalkative Bunny | That's So Raven | Martin Mystery | Totally Spies | Kim Possible | Mr. Bean: The Animated Series | Lilo & Stitch/Unstalkative Bunny | | | | My Wife And Kids | That's So Raven | America's Funniest Home Video | According To Jim | | |
| Cinemax | | | Seconds | | | | Mind Of The Crime | | | Accidental Hero | | | | Invisible The Chronicles Of Benjamin Knight | | | Patriot Games (10.25PM) | | |
| Hallmark Channel | Mad About You | A Carol Christmas | | Hans Christian Andersen - The Fairytaler Cartoon | Sesame Street | Play With Me Sesame | Mad About You | Who's The Boss | Bewitched | Judging Amy | | Sue Thomas: F.B. Eye | | Boyfriend For Christmas | | | Five Days To Midnight (10.35PM) | | Judging Amy (11.25PM) |
| Discovery Channel | | Power Zone | | | | Wild Discovery | | Ultimate Discovery | | Junkyard Wars | | American Chopper | | Wild Science | | Ultimate Discovery | | Crime Night | |
| MTV Philippines | | Whatever Things | | | | | | | | | | | Be Seen @ MTV | | | | | | |
| Sports Plus | You've Got to See This | UAW-Daimler Chrysler Highlights | | NCAA Reg Finals Game2 | | | | Italia Serie A | | | | World Poker Tour ep 11 Goes Cruising | | | | Inside the PGA | The Players C'ship Highlights | | Bell South Classic Day1 |
| EWTN | Does The Church Still Teach That | Angelus (3.15 PM) | Stations Of The Cross | Image Of God | Faith Factory | The Holy Rosary With Mother Angelica and the Nuns Of Our Lady Of Angels Monastery | Search And Rescue | Your Call | EWTN Gallery | Life on The Rock Encore | | Gospel Of Life In Health Care | Defending Life | Daily Mass | | Angelus (10.15PM) | Backstage | Father Corapi And The Catechism Of The Catholic Church | |

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.



Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
TUWING HUWEBES pagkatapos ng American Idol
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ELECTRIC FANS
Basta Ybay! Yun Yan!
45 years

# RP leads in Asean anti-piracy campaign

**By Nini Valera**

Optical Media Board chief Edu Manzano is proud that his work is being held up as an example

PIRACY in the country has gone down by at least six percent as of last year—thanks to the unrelenting drive led by Optical Media Board chief Edu Manzano.

"The Philippines is the only country in Asia that has seen a decrease in piracy [lately] so that we're being invited now [to serve] as a test case in Southeast Asia," Manzano revealed. "My counterparts in these countries could not believe that we could achieve so much with so little funds."

Congress has approved a P24-million budget for the OMB—not quite enough, according to Manzano.

### Only chance

"We just have to live with it," he said. "You cannot imagine the cost of a single operation. We spend as much as half a million when we conduct a major raid. The only chance we have now is to ask President Arroyo [for additional budget] from her discretionary funds."

Since yesterday, Manzano has been in consultation with delegates to the first Regional Roundtable Conference on Optical Disc Piracy in Southeast Asia. The conference participated in by nine countries aims to establish a "regional network for intelligence sharing, profiling of syndicates and monitoring of optical disc traffic within the region."

### Challenge

Manzano, recently given a plaque of appreciation by the Philippine Association of Recording Industries for his efforts, said he was not resting on his laurels.

"The President said there should be a more concerted effort [in the drive against piracy] so that we'd be in a better position to address the problem," Manzano told INQUIRER Entertainment.

The new Optical Media Act has given the OMB more teeth.

Any person found in possession of more than 10 pieces of

RP LEADS/ A3-2

ATS F JOB WELL DONE, E
EDU MANZANO
Chairman
OMB
RICKY II
Chair

MANZANO with Ricky Ilacad (right) and other record executives, during Pari program

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## Courtney Love plays Lovelace

LOS ANGELES—Courtney Love has agreed to play legendary porn star Linda Lovelace in an explosive movie comeback, Daily Variety said.

The industry bible said the singer-actress was attached to a biopic of the life of "Deep Throat" star Lovelace being developed by producer Jason Blum.

The movie, tentatively titled "Lovelace," will trace Lovelace's life from age 17, through her brief porn career until her death in 2002 at 53.

Love, 40, widow of grunge rocker Kurt Cobain, will coproduce the film with Blum.

*AFP*

entertainment
Megastrip
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Nyoy Volante with Mannos
Silk
DJ Sirscratch
April 2 · Saturday · 8pm onwards
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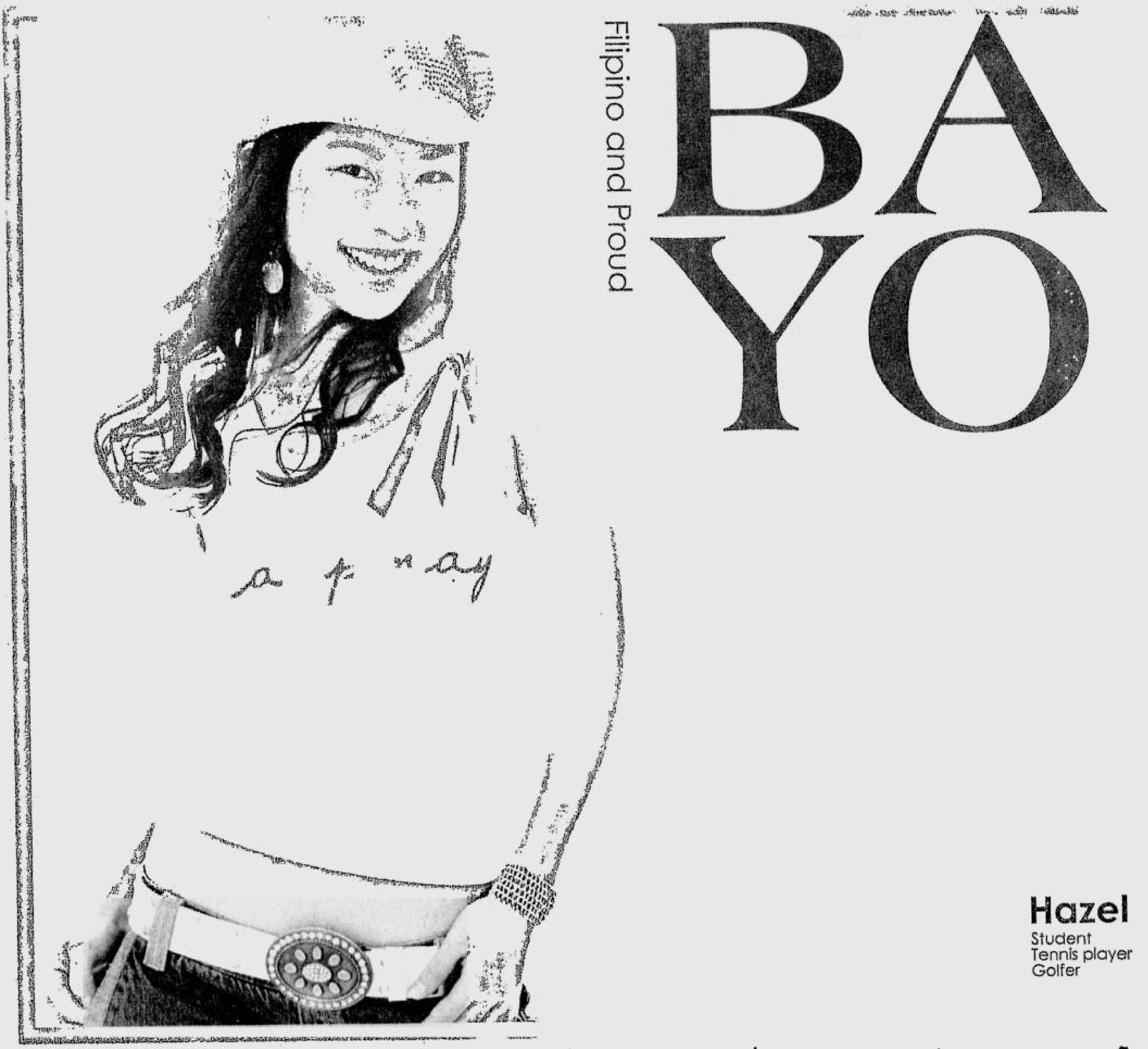
WAVE 89.1



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Hazel
Student
Tennis player
Golfer

# Upbeat Easter thoughts on the languishing film biz

**VIEWFINDER**

*Nestor U. Torre*

QUITE a number of people believe that Filipino movies will experience even tougher times this year than in the past five already dismal film seasons. Well, we beg to disagree. Our appropriately upbeat Easter thoughts on the subject:

The 2005 Cinemalaya and Cinema One film competitions are adding some 15 new films to our usual annual total. A producer is linking up with regional financiers who want to bankroll the production of 12 more movies.

Film students are planning to self-finance their new digital productions. Perhaps six new movies for television are in various stages of production, will be shown this year.

Do the math, and you get at least 40 new feature-length productions on top of our customary annual output. That's definitely good news, enough to unmake determinedly grouchy doom-and-gloom naysayers' day!

Another positive sign is the brightening prospect of putting up a national film archive to preserve our movies for future generations. This may not be as impressive in terms of billions of pesos, but to our mind, it's equally important, because we're talking cinematic value to us, whether we realize it or not.

## FPJ archive

WHEN **Fernando Poe Jr.** passed away, we expressed our admiration for him as a pioneering film preserver and archivist, and suggested the creation of a film archive in his memory, to be appropriately named the Fernando Poe Jr. National Film Archive. Alas, none of his followers picked up on the idea.

Recently, however, we talked to a prominent FPJ leader, who agreed that film preservation, restoration and archiving are of paramount importance, and the FPJ film archive should be pushed.

Well, at last, an influential ally in our effort to help preserve our film patrimony! Let's see what the coming months will bring. Thirdly, we're heartened to hear that, despite the difficult film times, some of our best filmmakers are lining up a number of exceptional movie projects to be produced and shown this year. So, aside from greater quantity in terms of film output, we can look forward to better local movies to view and appreciate in 2005.

Let's hope that we viewers will also do our share in supporting these outstanding new productions. All too often, we complain about the lack of quality films on local screens, but when those exceptional movies are produced, we don't go out of our way to patronize them.

We should accept the fact that we're part of the problem, and do our best to support our finest filmmakers' new works from here on in.

Fourth, some theater circuits are going into digital film projection. If this catches on, it will bring down the cost of making movies and open up our screens to new filmmakers, who hopefully will have fresh and meaningful things to say.

These and other prospects encourage us to believe that Film Year 2005 could see a significant turnaround in the local movie industry's flagging fortunes. If we stop complaining and work together, these upbeat Easter thoughts could become an exciting reality. No room for doom and gloom, let's all help Filipino films go zoom!

## Ryan Cayabyab, The Music Studio

MAKE full and fun use of the summer vacation and take up musical courses at **Ryan Cayabyab**, The Music Studio.

Children's Chorus Class (ages 8-13) develops the child's musicianship and teamwork abilities. (Auditions will determine the child's level of musicality).

Stepping in Tune class (ages 8-13) is a music appreciation course that taps the child's musical abilities through song, movement and instrument playing.

The Pop Vocal Performance class (14 up) would benefit those who enjoy performing pop songs, or those who intend to join singing contests.

Other classes being offered at The Music Studio are individual voice and piano lessons. Call **Melissa** or **Gladys** at 844-3330, 843-2874, 0917-9096484.

# *Supermodel urges Pinoys to go vegetarian for life*

**ISABEL Roces: Meatless is fashionable.**

WEARING a formfitting gown made entirely of cabbage leaves, Isabel Roces, just named Fashion Model of the Year by MTV, appears in a brand-new ad for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), touting the many benefits of a meatless diet.

The tagline urges: "Style for Life—Go Vegetarian!"

Isabel wants Filipinos to know that going vegetarian is the best way to stay trim, fight animal abuse, and avoid life-threatening illnesses.

"Being healthy and kind is always in style," says Isabel, granddaughter of former Manila Times publisher Joaquin "Chino" Roces. "So whether you want to slim down and get healthy or just clear your conscience, there's no better way than to go vegetarian!"

Isabel has graced the pages of fashion magazines across Asia, including Preview and Cosmopolitan and appeared in ads for Watson's and Smart. She has been an ethical vegetarian since childhood.

Top professionals collaborated on Isabel's veggie-friendly photo shoot—including photographer Toto Labrador, Stylist Ana Kalaw, and makeup artist Chechel Joson.

# RP leads in Asean anti-piracy campaign

From page A3-1

pirated products, with the intent to distribute or engage in commercial activities, now faces from 30 to 60 days imprisonment and a fine of from P25,000 to P50,000.

Importing, distributing and manufacturing optical media materials without license or consent from the legitimate manufacturer is now punishable with one to three years imprisonment and a fine of from P100,000 to P500,000.

Three to six years imprisonment and a fine of P500,000 to P1M are the penalties for exporting and importing (replicating) equipment without license or authority.

Subsequent offenses are subject to penalties of six to nine years imprisonment and fines of up to P1.5 million.

"It used to be that offenders could bail out of jail within 24 hours," Manzano said: "*Ngayon, nagbago na ang ihip ng hangin* (The winds have changed).

"We have asked [authorities] to consider piracy a heinous crime, considering its effect on the economy," Manzano said. "But we have to do with the present administrative and penal clauses."

Cases were now being filed against apprehended pirates, he said. "We used to think the raids would stop the illegal activities. But ... disrupting their operations was not enough. We'll be filing cases against them now. The law is the law. Even if I'm no longer here, we'd still have to uphold the law."

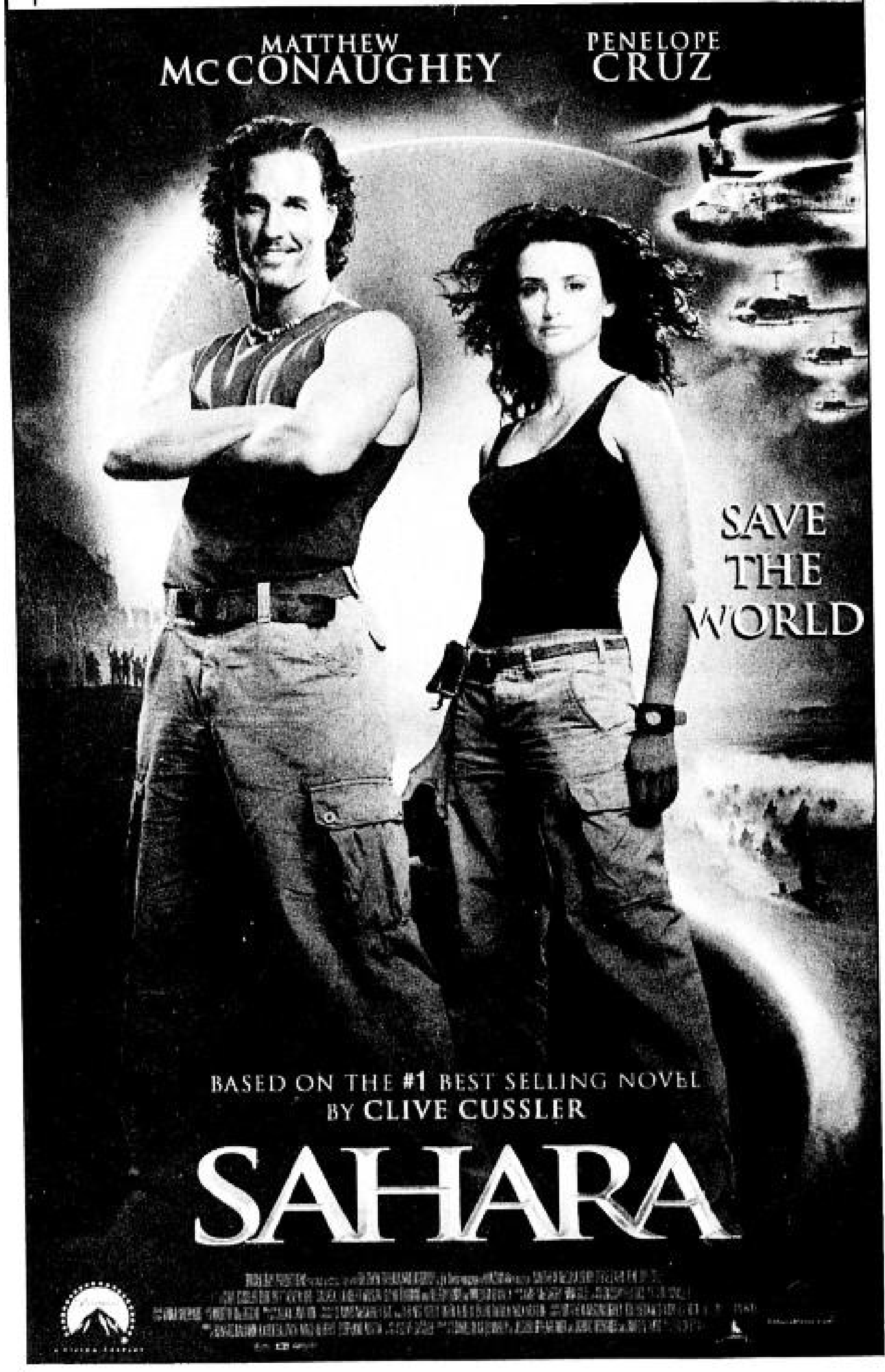
Manzano said the biggest problem he faced even as chief of the Videogram Regulatory Board (forerunner of the OMB) was the importation of pirated materials from China, Taiwan, Indonesia, among other countries.

"If only we had a way of stopping [the traffic from the source] we would be making more headway," Manzano lamented. "So now the best thing to do is to drag [the pirates] out into the streets. This really affects their operations."

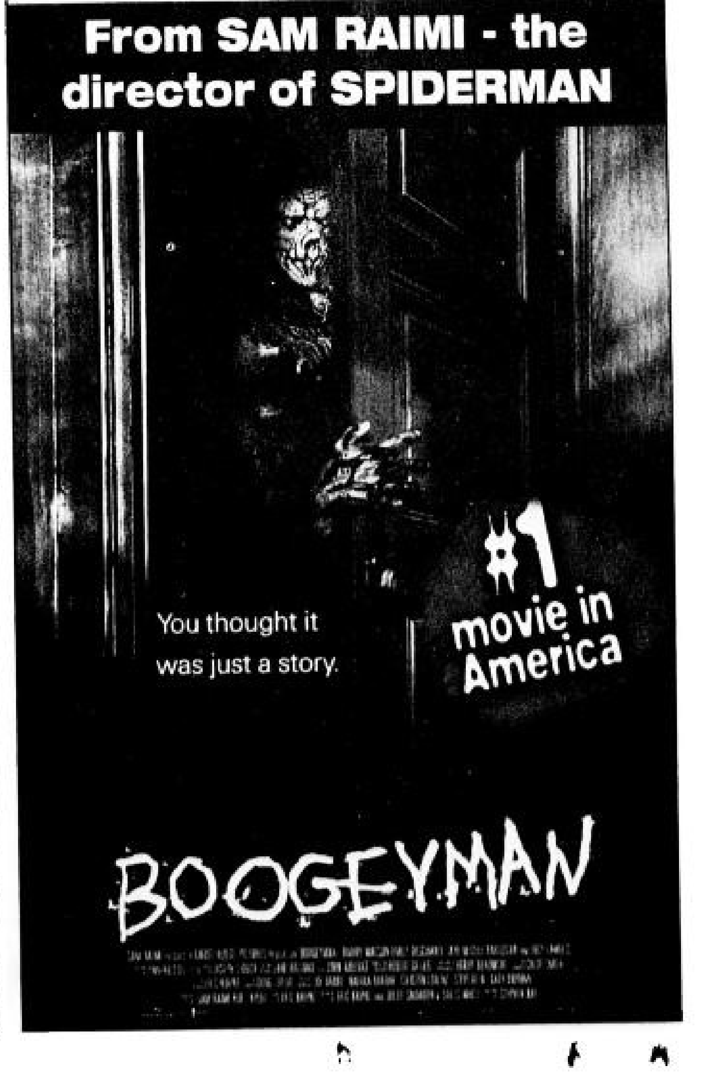
So far, Manzano's efforts have resulted in the confiscation of 635,000 illegal copies of optical discs worth more than $8 million in Quiapo, Manila.

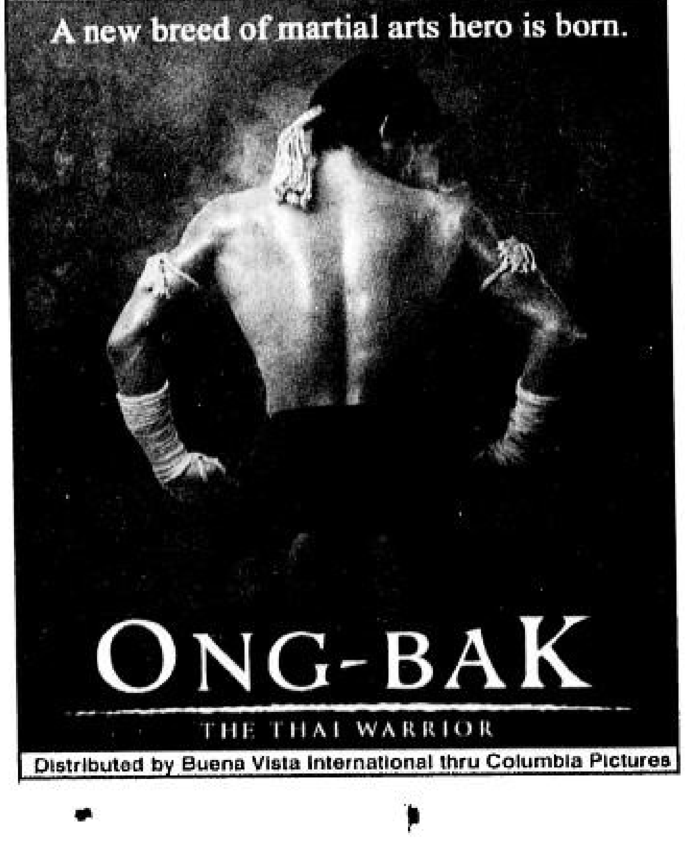
Two major replicating plants operating in Cubao were shut down by the VRB. Owners of the plants have also been charged, according to Manzano.

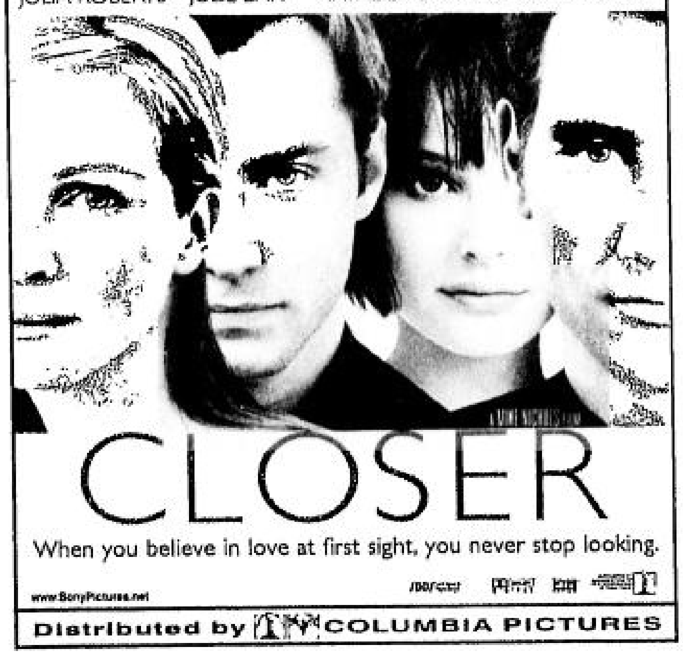
He added that through the VRB's representations, malls in Metro Manila now included in their lease agreements the provision that lessees should not engage in the sale of pirated products.

OPENS APRIL 8
THE FIRST BIG SUMMER MOVIE OF 2005
$125M BUDGETED SUPER PRODUCTION


From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper: INQUIRER
Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer. JOB Market

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB Rating PG 13 "Parents are strongly cautioned in bringing along kids below seven due to some scenes that might stress their sensitivities".
From SAM RAIMI - the director of SPIDERMAN

You thought it was just a story.
#1 movie in America
BOOGEYMAN

ULTIMATE MARTIAL ARTS ACTION
STARTS APRIL 13!
MTRCB ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS AND UP

A new breed of martial arts hero is born.
ONG-BAK
THE THAI WARRIOR
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

Powerhouse Cast In Their Sexiest Roles Ever!
LOVE & BETRAYAL BEGINS APRIL 6
MTRCB ▶ R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS AND UP
5 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS BEST PICTURE
JULIA ROBERTS JUDE LAW NATALIE PORTMAN CLIVE OWEN

CLOSER
When you believe in love at first sight, you never stop looking.
www.SonyPictures.net
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

# And now, 'Panday' on TV

BOX Office King... Massacre Films King... True-to-Life Story King... So many titles have been bestowed on Carlo J. Caparas but he prefers to be called "Komiks King."

The late FPJ's image was boosted when he captured the imagination of Pinoys by portraying the role of Panday, a superhero created by Carlo J In four successive Metro Manila Film Festivals "Panday" outgrossed all other entries.

**DOLLY WOOD**

*Dolly Ann Carvajal*

With FPJ's demise, doomsayers thought that "Panday" died with Da King, but ABS-CBN executives believe otherwise. In a whirlwind negotiation with mega-producer Donna Villa, Carlo J agreed to turn his super-creation into a TV serial. Philip Salvador will play the role of Flavio (the original Panday) and Jericho Rosales portrays Tristan (the new Panday).

Direk Carlo beams with excitement about his new project "I'm sure kids and adults alike will enjoy the TV version of Panday. It's vastly improved in terms of special effects and production design. *Talagang ginastusan ng* ABS-CBN!"

The mega couple Carlo J and Donna V are at it again! With their unbeatable teamwork, "Panday" will definitely outshine all boob. tube super heroes combined

CARLO J with Donna Villa: "Komiks King" will do just fine

## Super fantaserye

Following the phenomenal success of its first *telefantasya* Mulawin, which soared to incredible heights in popularity, GMA 7 offers another fantasy series that will surely delight Filipinos of all ages. Flying to every Filipino home starting April 4 is no other than the original Pinay superhero—"Darna!"

Created by Mars Ravelo more than five decades ago, Darna remains to be a Pinoy icon of extraordinary strength. This remarkable character has crossed over generations and multi-media (from comic books to movies and the Internet and now, television) and is still the role most desired by the country's premier actresses.

Donning the famous two-piece outfit and crown of valor in GMA 7's presentation of the modern-day "Darna" is Angel Locsin. She also plays Darna's pure-hearted alter-ego Narda, a teenage market vendor who keeps the precious white stone of Planet Marte.

Equally overwhelming as Darna's superpowers is the primetime series' powerhouse cast. Joining Angel are Ms Celia Rodriguez as the Queen of Darkness Braguda; Eddie Garcia as the Insect King Mambabarang; Christopher de leon as the evil surgeon Dr. Zombie: Carmina Villaroel plays the fiery Sulfura; Cristine Reyes is the formidable Molecula & Alessandra da Rossi portrays the snakewoman Valentina. Directed by Eric Quizon & Dominic Zapata, Darna premieres on April 4 (Monday) & airs weeknights on GMA7's telebabad Block.

The never ending network war rages on with the coming of ABS-CBN 2's "Panday" & GMA 7's "Darna" A male super champ versus a female hero. Who will be the fiercest of them all? We are in dire need of real heroes In the absence of heroes, we invent one. Or in the case of the two networks, they are retracing the steps of yesterday's legends. Has reality become so grim that we ought to indulge in fantasy TV? Hopefully, there will also be more Pandays & Darnas who won't disappear at a flick of the remote control.

## Readers' corner

I CANNOT help but write this observation about TV programming during the Holy Week. Has media gone totally incognizant of the faith? Is ratings still the most important factor in programming? It was as if TV was playing Devil's Advocate to people who were trying to examine their own relationship with their Maker... and I am referring most specifically to the two warring stations on local TV.

Gone are those days when you hardly have a program to watch over TV come Holy Thursday until Black Saturday except for some inspirational documentaries, docu-dramas and movies with religious themes. I have observed this last year and thought, well TV producers did do their homework by producing inspirational tele-dramas. There was a touch of commercialism (with those adverts and TV IDs) but I thought they were tolerable.

This year, the exhibition was, in my opinion, out of control! Talk about "Mulawin" and "Extra Challenge" being aired on the evening of Good Friday! And "Wowowie" on Black Saturday! Oh, and there were slapstick comedy films as well! TV IDs previously introduced by biblical verses or inspirational messages have been replaced by forthcoming programs introduced with full excitement!

I found it difficult to convince my kids not to watch TV during those days especially when there were truly entertaining programs. But were we supposed to be entertained? Thank goodness for VCDs and DVDs, I managed to make the Holy Week break around the house inspirational.

You may find this letter as an overreaction but I just feel that the transition in TV programming has been so abrupt. I think our sense of Catholicism is slowly dying if it is not dead yet. I hope this letter reaches those people who are entrusted with the medium with the highest influence in today's youth.

Thanks for paying attention.
Regards,
Kiko Abarquez

*For feedback e-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com*

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BE COOL PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:15
BOOGEYMAN PG13 1:25, 3:25, 5:45, 7:55, 10:05
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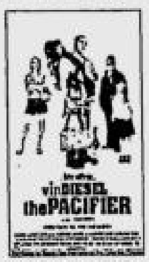

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9 ALONE IN THE DARK
10 RESERVED
11 RESERVED
12 RESERVED

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5 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
6 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
7 THE PACIFIER
8 ROBOTS
9 ALONE IN THE DARK
10 SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD
11 HITCH
12 MILLION DOLLAR BABY

sm city north edsa
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2 RESERVED
3 BOOGEYMAN
4 HOSTAGE
5 ALONE IN THE DARK
6 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
7 BE COOL
8 THE PACIFIER

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1 THE PACIFIER
2 HITCH
3 SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD
4 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
5 BE COOL
6 HOSTAGE
7 ALONE IN THE DARK
8 CONSTANTINE
9 ROBOTS
10 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
11 CURSED
12 BOOGEYMAN

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1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 LOVE ME IF YOU DARE smcinemaexclusive
5 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
6 ROBOTS
7 THE PACIFIER
8 BOOGEYMAN
9 BE COOL
10 ALONE IN THE DARK

sm city southmall
1 ALONE IN THE DARK
2 ROBOTS
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 HOSTAGE
6 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
7 BE COOL
8 THE PACIFIER
9 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
10 BOOGEYMAN

sm city bicutan
1 THE PACIFIER
2 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
3 BOOGEYMAN
4 ALONE IN THE DARK

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2 RESERVED
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2 BOOGEYMAN
3 THE PACIFIER
4 MS. CONGENIALITY 2

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2 CONFIDENCE
3 SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD
4 HITCH
5 ROBOTS
6 BAHAY NI LOLA 2

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1 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
2 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
3 INFECTION
4 ROBOTS

sm city batangas
1 ROBOTS
2 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
3 STONY HURST CULMINATING ACTIVITIES
4 BUNSHINSABA

sm city dasmariñas
1 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
2 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
3 FINAL CUT
4 THE PACIFIER

sm city marilao
1 CURSED
2 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
3 FINAL CUT
4 ROBOTS

sm city bacoor
1 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
2 ROBOTS
3 THE PACIFIER
4 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
5 SHAOLIN vs EVIL DEAD
6 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
7 HOSTAGE
8 CURSED

sm city lucena
1 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
2 HITCH
3 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
4 ROBOTS

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO
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2 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 BUNSHINSABA
6 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
7 HOSTAGE
8 HITCH

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1 HITCH
2 RESERVED
3 SON OF THE MASK 2
4 BAHAY NI LOLA 2
5 THE AVIATOR
6 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
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# Yo girls, is that singing?

**MIDLER** vows to never lip-synch

PHOTO COURTESY OF FANTASTICADAILY.COM

**ELSE WHERE**

SYDNEY—Veteran diva Bette Midler labelled modern female pop singers "characterless" Wednesday and criticized them for lip-synching during supposedly live performances.

The 59-year-old singer and actress, whose career spans four decades, said she found it difficult to relate to the rap-dominated chart music of recent years and expected many modern female pop stars to "fall by the wayside."

"It's a strange time, I don't want to say it's the dark ages for music, but a lot of people have put that forward and said it's not such a great time," she told reporters at the start of her first Australian tour in 26 years.

"Certainly it's not a great time for rock and roll and for popular music in general, it's kinda hard to tell the characters apart.

"But then it's hard to tell the characters apart in everything—maybe that's a function of age, it probably is."

Midler, who performs her latest show 'Kiss My Brass' with a full horn section on stage, said she would never lip-synch her way through performances like many younger stars.

"I just can't do that... I guess because I came up singing and dancing at the same time, to me it's not so frightening, for a lot of kids it is, for the younger ones it's scary," she said.

Asked whether she was ready to end her career, Midler replied: "I'm not retiring and you can't make me."

Midler also dismissed reports she would co-star with Britney Spears in a comedy film called "In the Pink."

"Oh, that'll never happen," she said, saying the project had disappeared in the "abyss" of project development and was unlikely to resurface. *AFP*

# For an apple

WELLINGTON, New Zealand—Two-time Oscar-winning actress Hilary Swank has been fined for bringing forbidden fruit into New Zealand, after getting thumbs down from judges in an appeal, a court said Wednesday.

Swank was issued notice of a fine for breaching New Zealand's strict quarantine laws when she failed to declare an apple and an orange while arriving at an airport on Jan. 15 on a flight from Los Angeles, but appealed the penalty to a court.

The Manukau District Court on Wednesday advised the country's Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry that Swank's appeal had been rejected and that she had been fined NZ$200 (US$142) plus costs of NZ$30 (US$21).

Swank had written to the ministry seeking a court hearing to have her fine expunged. She said in a handwritten statement:

"After my 20-hour flight I simply forgot I had one orange and one apple. I do apologize sincerely." *AP*

# Dances with Gere

TOKYO—Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi got some advice Tuesday from actor Richard Gere—follow the Dalai Lama and listen to your rivals.

Gere was in Japan to promote his film "Shall We Dance?" and Koizumi took him up on the offer, taking his hands for a few steps with the actor in front of the cameras at the prime minister's residence.

Gere told reporters that Koizumi promised to see the film, a remake of the 1996 Japanese original by the same name, "at least 10 times."

Koizumi has often been likened to Richard Gere due to his gray, lion-like mane of hair.

The Dalai Lama, Tibetan spiritual leader, is due in Japan in April.

Asked how Koizumi can get along better with rivals in his party and the opposition, Gere recalled that the Dalai Lama suggested during the Cold War that US and Soviet leaders "should go to an island somewhere" to spend two weeks together along with their families.

"In this way, the world can be very peaceful," Gere said. *AFP*

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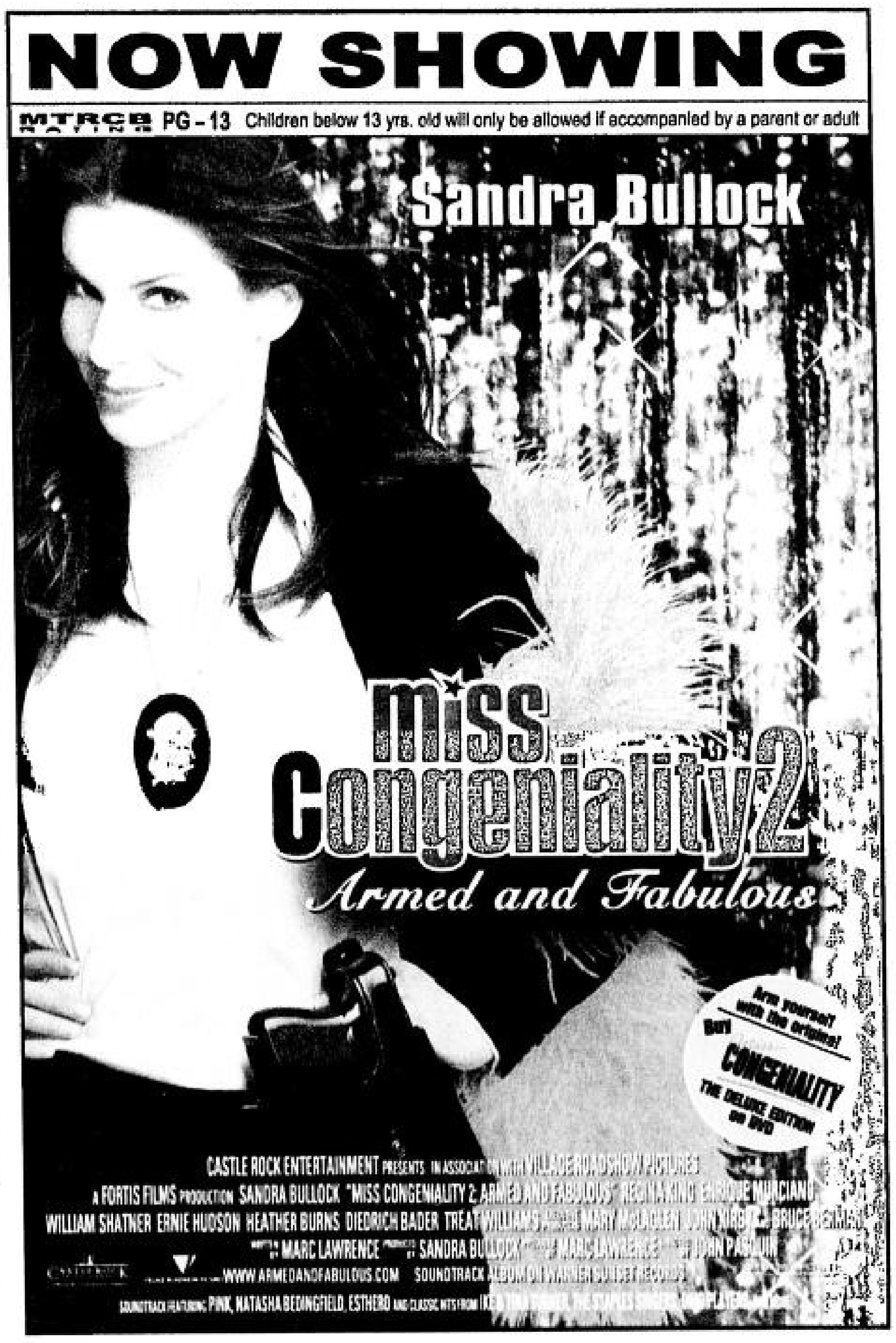
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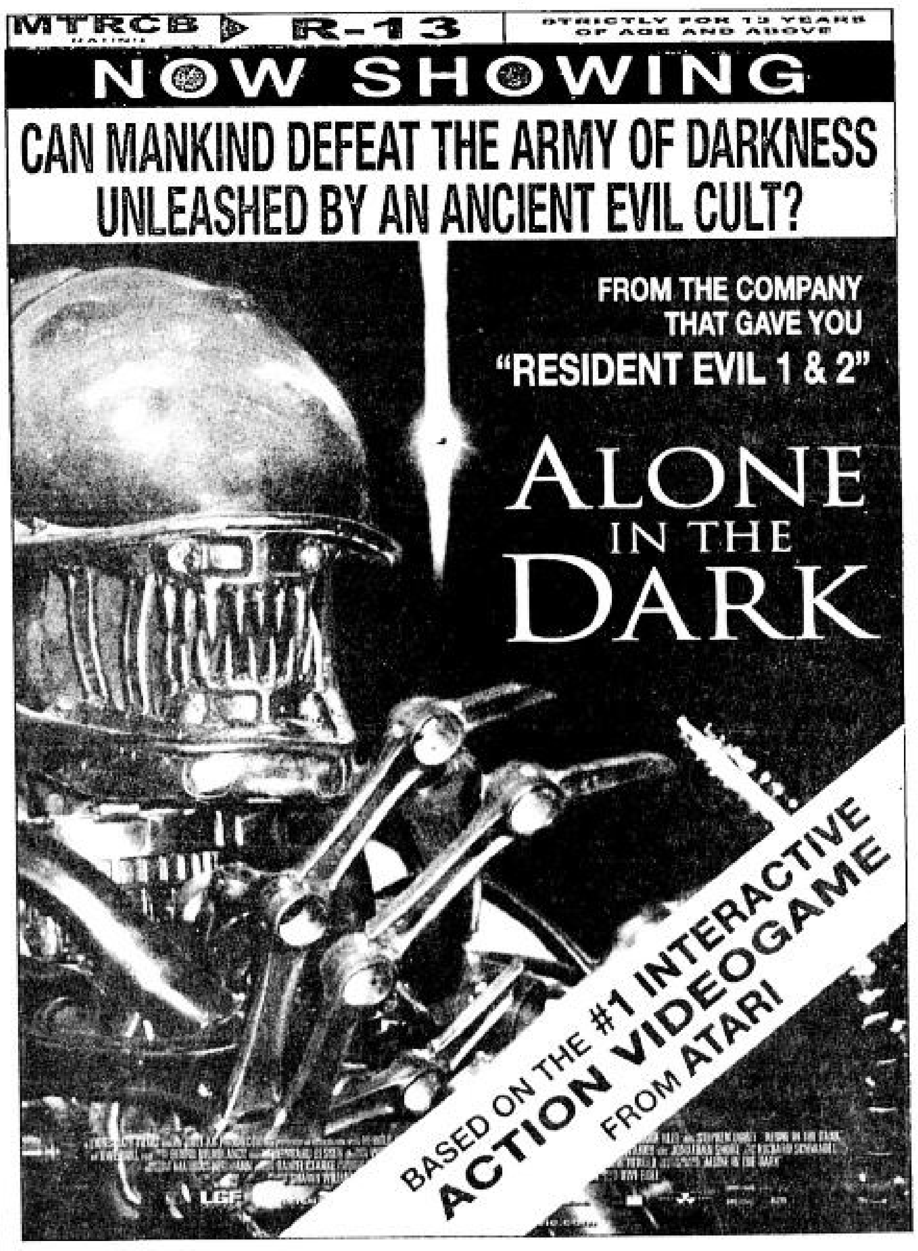
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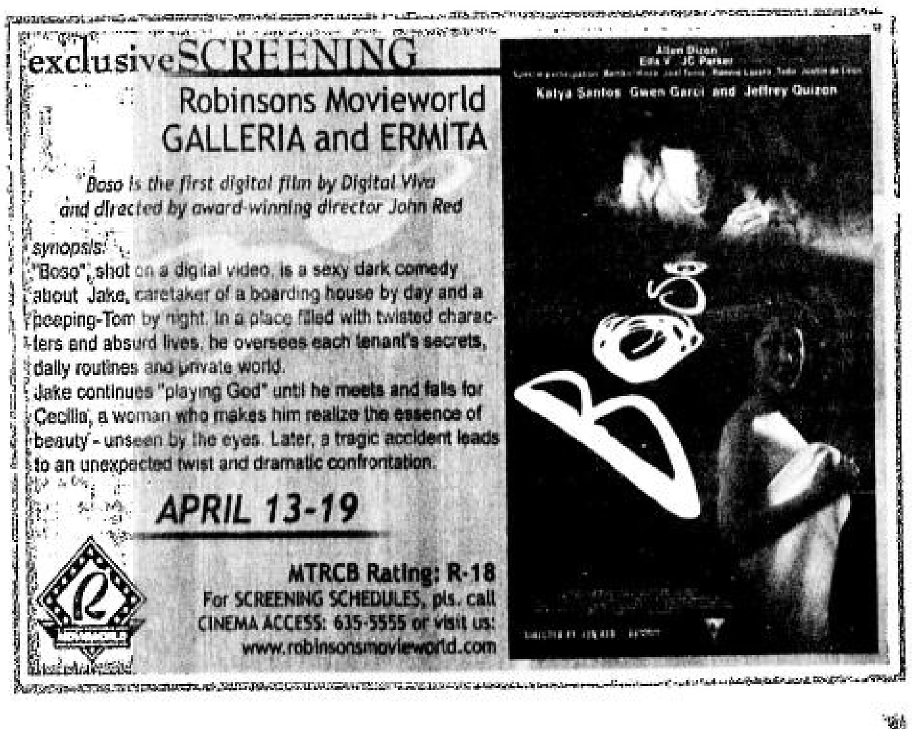
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"Boso", shot on a digital video, is a sexy dark comedy about Jake, caretaker of a boarding house by day and a peeping-Tom by night. In a place filled with twisted characters and absurd lives, he oversees each tenant's secrets, daily routines and private world.

Jake continues "playing God" until he meets and falls for Cecilia, a woman who makes him realize the essence of beauty - unseen by the eyes. Later, a tragic accident leads to an unexpected twist and dramatic confrontation.

APRIL 13-19

MTRCB Rating: R-18

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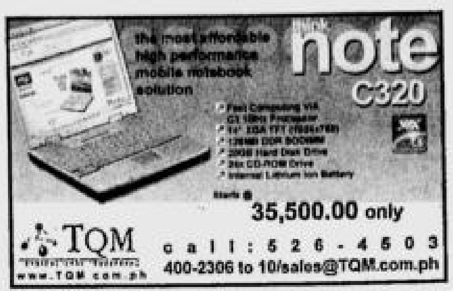

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# Public sector deficit up 5.3% in '04

By Michelle V. Remo

**THE COUNTRY'S consolidated public sector deficit rose by 5.3 percent to P233.46 billion last year from the previous year's P221.67 billion, data from the Department of Finance showed.**

The worsening public sector financial position was blamed on the continued widening of the budget gap posted by state-owned companies.

The 2004 figure was, however, lower than the target of P315.975 billion.

The consolidated public sector deficit (CPSD) covers the financial position of the national government, government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs), government financial institutions (GFIs) and local government units (LGUs).

According to the DOF data, the deficits incurred by the 14 GOCCs being monitored by the national government rose by 38.9 percent to P90.74 billion in 2004 from only P65.32 billion in 2003.

The poor financial performance of the GOCCs prompted the finance department to review their financial standing and how they incurred the deficits. The results of the review will be used in determining whether to rationalize or even abolish the losing GOCCs.

"We will continue to focus on putting more discipline on GOCCs. Companies are meant to earn money. If they are losing, we must be asking why," Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said in an interview at the sidelines of the general assembly of the Tax Management Association of the Philippines yesterday.

GOCCs that incurred the biggest losses include the National Power Corp., whose assets are already being privatized by the government, the Light Rail Transit Authority and the National Food Authority.

The higher public sector deficit figure in 2004 was also brought about by the deficit incurred by the national which stood at P187.1 billion. But unlike the GOCCs, the national government was able to lower its deficit from the 2003 figure of P199.9 billion.

The increase in the deficit was also brought about by the rise in the amount earmarked for the settlement of obligations related to the restructuring of the old

PUBLIC/ B4

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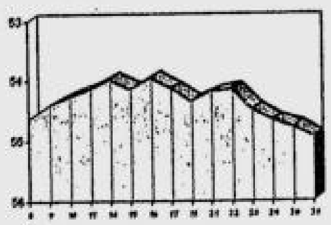

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P54.94 = $1

As of 5 p.m., March 31, 2005

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As of 5 p.m., March 30, 2005

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per ounce Hong Kong, March 31, 2005

### STOCK MARKET

## Stocks slightly up

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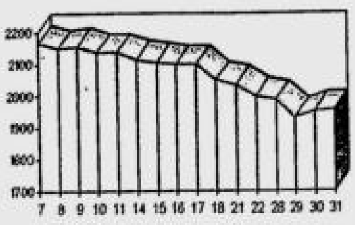

SHARE prices yesterday closed 0.17 percent higher, consolidating while investors waited to see if Congress would finally pass a much-delayed revenue measure, dealers said.

Institutional investors took the market's recent falls as an opportunity to accumulate bargain blue chips, providing some support although the outlook remains uncertain for the moment.

A key issue is whether Congress will pass an increase in Value Added Tax (VAT) to 12 percent from 10 percent sought by the government as it seeks to bolster the country's shaky finances.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gained 3.31 points to 1,954.69 after trading between 1,943.76 and 1,964.43. Volume was 611 million shares worth P2.44 billion. The all-shares index gained 9.88 points to 1,186.96.

Gainers outnumbered losers 60 to 21, with 42 stocks ending unchanged.

"There's a lack of positive domestic leads recently and oil prices and looming interest-rate increases remain concerns," said Nina Tinio of Unicapital Securities Inc.

"We are closely watching developments in Congress. Without the VAT measure, we can't say that the Philippines is really out of the woods," said Gomer Tan of Regina Capital Development. *AFP*

# Sumitomo Mitsui unloads BPI stake

By Doris C. Dumlao

JAPANESE banking giant Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp. yesterday unloaded its 6.7-percent stake in the country's second biggest lender, Bank of the Philippine Islands, for P7.22 billion.

The move, according to a company statement, is in line with the Japanese firm's global reorganization.

The stake, equivalent to 149.46 million shares, was sold for P48.25 per share in two block transactions at the Philippine Stock Exchange through Deutsche Regis Partners Inc.

The buyer of the stake was still unidentified as of press time but banking sources said there was a big possibility that the stake was simply transferred by Sumitomo to one of its subsidiaries or affiliates.

The sale price stood at a discount to BPI's unchanged closing price of P51 at the PSE yesterday.

If the shares were sold to another investor, it would have been priced at a premium, an analyst said.

BPI, which enjoys the highest rating among Philippine banks based on the evaluation of London-based Fitch Ratings, is a consistent favorite among local banking stocks.

Sumitomo once held an 8.4-percent stake in BPI but had trimmed its holdings to the current level. In Tokyo, the bank announced that the transaction yesterday was part of the reorganization of its overseas business.

BPI is majority controlled by leading conglomerate Ayala Corp. and Singapore's DBS Group

SUMITOMO/ B6

## INQUIRER MONITOR

**Figures that matter in our nation's life**

### Factors limiting business activity

(1st quarter 2005, in percent)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Competition | 74.0 |
| 2 | Insufficient demand | 61.3 |
| 3 | Unclear economic laws | 37.6 |
| 4 | High interest rates | 37.0 |
| 5 | Financial problems | 36.2 |
| 6 | Access to credit | 31.1 |
| 7 | Labor problems | 27.7 |
| 8 | Lack of materials-inputs | 26.8 |
| 9 | Lack of equipment | 24.4 |
| 10 | Others | 16.7 |

Source: Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

BASED on the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' survey of 510 firms, businessmen kept a positive outlook on the economy for both the first and second quarters of 2005. Competition and lack of demand topped the list of factors that constrain business activity.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

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# BOC prohibits entry of right-hand-drive vehicles

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Customs has prohibited shipping companies and other carriers from bringing in imported right-hand-drive vehicles.

Under Customs Memorandum Order No. 16-2005, carriers found carrying right-hand-drive vehicles will not be allowed to unload the items, and will be required to transport the vehicles back to the country of origin at their own expense.

The memorandum issued last Tuesday was aimed at putting more teeth into the government's efforts to protect consumers from accident-prone right-hand-drive vehicles.

Newly appointed Customs Commissioner Bert Lina said that although there was a law banning the importation of right-hand-drive vehicles, importers have found a way of circumventing it by converting the vehicles into left-hand drives.

Republic Act No. 8506, which bans the importation of right-hand-drive vehicles, was passed in 1999 in response to concerns on safety and rising incidence of smuggling.

Lina said the converted vehicles still did not ensure the safety of passengers because the process of converting the vehicles brings down quality.

"We will hold liable those that will disobey our memo," Lina said in a press briefing with reporters Wednesday night. He added that the BOC was still formulating the schedule of penalties.

The local automotive industry claimed that the rampant smuggling of used right-hand-drive vehicles, which are allegedly entering through and being converted in Subic Freeport, adversely affected the sales of cars manufactured or assembled locally.

The automotive industry has stressed the need to tighten the government's monitoring of the entry of used and right-hand-drive vehicles, saying full implementation of the law banning their importation was necessary to help the local automotive industry develop.

The industry has cited that in 2002, about 200,000 vehicles were registered with the Land Transportation Office, but the legitimate car manufacturers and sellers only sold 80,000, showing the huge market share being eaten by the underground automotive industry.

Lina said the BOC was embarking on an intensified campaign against smuggling, which was largely blamed for huge revenue losses for the fiscally troubled government.

Aside from tasking shipping firms to participate in the government's efforts to prevent the entry of right-hand-drive vehicles, Lina said, the BOC was also strengthening its auditing system through computerization.

# Cement prices expected to remain stable in Q2

MARKET leader Republic Cement Group of Companies said cement prices were expected to remain stable in the first half of the year.

Juan Miguel Montinola, president of Republic Cement Corp., said favorable developments, such as improved production efficiency and the peso appreciation vis-a-vis the dollar, were expected to allow cement companies to keep their prices stable even during the summer months, when construction activities were expected to peak.

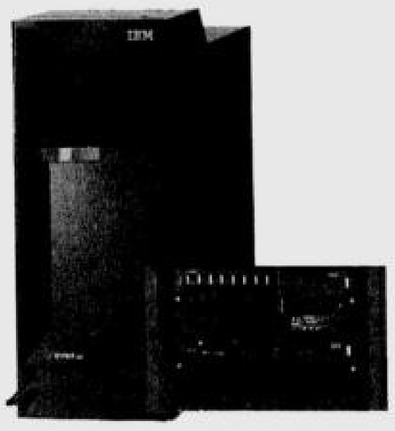
"The biggest threat to stable cement prices in the next quarter is an increase in power rates. The last time the company effected a price increase was in January and this was shortly after the implementation of the power rate increase in November 2004. The magnitude of that power rate increase, which was a 34-percent increase for Luzon, left us no choice but to adjust our prices upwards," Montinola said.

Lately, there have been several reports of continuous cement price increases and Republic was quick to comment that except for the adjustment in January, the company had kept its prices constant. In fact, for the past six months the ex-plant price of the Republic Cement Group in the National Capital Region (NCR) only increased by an average of 4 percent, from P134 to P 140 per 40-kg bag of ordinary Portland cement (OPC).

"In order to further cushion customers from price increases, alternative products have been provided suitable for most construction needs at lower prices."

The Republic Group boasts of having the widest product offering in the cement industry.

The Republic Cement group is composed of five operating cement plants in Luzon and Mindanao. Aside from parent company Republic Cement Corp., the other affiliated cement companies include Fortune Cement Corp., Continental Operating Corp., FR Cement Corp. and Iligan Cement Corp. The company is affiliated with Lafarge SA, the world's biggest cement and construction materials provider.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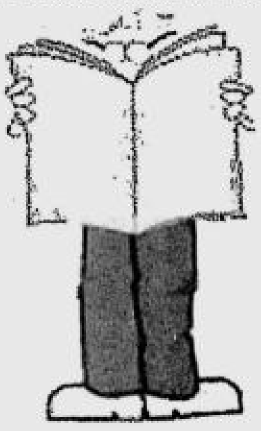

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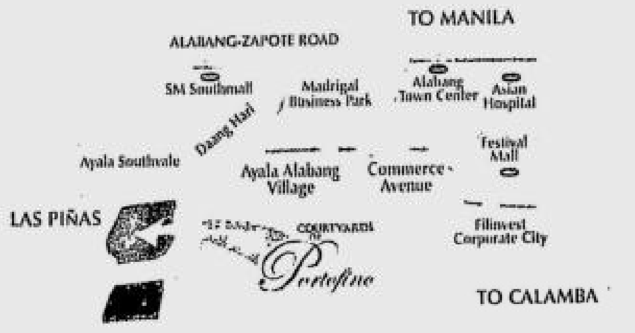

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## MALAMPAYA RESERVES

# $3B needed to connect RP gas field to Asean pipeline

**By Abigail L. Ho**

MORE than $3 billion may be needed to connect the Philippines to other gas reserves in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) region via a gas pipeline linking the Malampaya gas find in Palawan to another gas field in Brunei.

Rolando Rodriguez, Philippine National Oil Co. senior vice president, yesterday said in a briefing that the figure was based on the cost of building the existing pipeline that connected the Malampaya gas find to the natural gas-fired power plants in Batangas.

To build a pipeline 500 kilometers long, it would take around $1.5 billion, Rodriguez said.

But he quickly added that this cost estimate was "several years" old.

"The cost now would be pretty much on the high side," Rodriguez said.

The planned Brunei-Palawan pipeline would be around 1,000 kilometers long. Using the cost of the Palawan-Batangas pipeline as a benchmark, he said the cost of building the Brunei-Palawan pipeline should hit about $3 billion.

Considering the high cost of building the gas pipeline, Rodriguez said its profitability should be well established.

During the 22nd Asean Ministers on Energy Meeting in June last year, Asean energy leaders signed a memorandum of understanding on the Trans-Asean Gas Pipeline (TAGP).

The ratification of the TAGP MOU paved the way for the formal establishment of the Asean Gas Consultative Council and the Asean Gas Center in Malaysia.

"The ministers reaffirmed that interconnected networks of electricity grids and gas pipelines in the Asean region offer significant benefits in terms of both energy security, flexibility and quality of energy supply and greater competition," the Asean ministers had said.

The TAGP project will follow a five-year plan, which prioritizes five gas pipelines for cross-border interconnection: South Sumatra-Peninsular Malaysia, West Natuna-Duyong in Malaysia, East Natuna-Erawan in Thailand, East Natuna-West 'Natuna-Kerteh in Malaysia, and East Natuna West Natuna-Singapore.

While other components of the TAGP have not been placed under the priority list, these will also be undertaken in the future.

Former Energy Secretary Vincent Perez said private sector participation was key to ensuring that the Asean gas pipeline would materialize as it entailed a huge amount of investment in its entirety.

"To finish the TAGP, we need private sector investment," Perez had said.

# RP trims BOP errors to below global norms

**By Doris C. Dumlao**

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has trimmed down the errors and omissions in its balance of payments (BOP) to "neglibile" levels following a shift to a new accounting method.

Earlier, International Monetary Fund officials and other analysts from around the world had expressed their concern over the country's BOP data.

Restating the 2003 and 2004 BOP using the new accounting method, the negative errors and omissions—also known as "net unclassified items"—were reduced to $220 million and $668 million, respectively, from $2.08 billion and $2.5 billion.

"There is a vast improvement, as far as net errors and omissions are concerned," said Diwa Guinigundo, BSP assistant governor. "There were instances in the past that this number was even bigger than the current account surplus."

The IMF, in a recent country report, said reporting gaps and misclassifications made Philippine data difficult to interpret.

Before the 2004 BOP data was restated, the IMF said, the current account surplus looked "insufficient" to finance net capital outflows. Also, the data fueled expectations of a loss in foreign exchange reserves.

Guinigundo said the reduction in the net unclassified items now put the level to below global norms. He said if these items were 5 percent of global trade or lower, it would be "quite safe" based on international standards.

"We're now just about 0.3 percent for 2003 and 0.8 percent for 2004 of global trade, so that's practically negligible," he said.

Guinigundo said the reduced level of errors and omissions fared well, even with the 0.6 percent average in advanced economies. In 2003, he said Australia's errors and omissions accounted for 0.27 percent of its global trade. The United Kingdom's stood at 0.25 percent.

In the past, the Philippines' net unclassified items hit as high as 3.2 percent of its global trade.

"How can you analyze the fundamental strength of the Philippine economy if you're not sure of the data," Guinigundo noted.

Asked whether it was possible to wipe out the remaining unclassified items, Guinigundo said: "Efforts are continuing to improve data monitoring and, over time, we'll be able to capture them."

The adjustment in the country's external statistics was based on the recommendation of IMF statistical missions. For instance, a 20 percent raising factor was included in overseas Filipino workers (OFW) accounts to estimate remittances outside the banking system.

Furthermore, OFWs are now split into residents (income account) and non-residents (current transfers) in accordance with a one-year residency rule recommended in the BOP manual.

There was likewise an adjustment in import data to correct the understatement of consigned raw materials for electronics, thereby providing a better representation of the electronics industry that is more import-dependent than what was suggested by the old numbers.

At the same time, trade credits are now based on surveys and external debt reports, compared to the previous system of deriving trade receivables and payables from data on goods shipments and payments.

The computation of direct and portfolio investments was also changed to include transactions which bypass the banking system, such as resident investment abroad.

# Lufthansa expects to raise passenger volume by 30%

**By Clarissa S. Batino**

GERMAN carrier Lufthansa said it was targeting to increase its passenger volume to and from the Philippines by as much as 30 percent starting this year.

"We have more seats now for the Philippine market," said Christopher Zimmer, Lufthansa's general manager for the Philippines, Guam and Micronesia. "Our target is to increase by 20-30 percent the passenger volume here."

Zimmer also expects a corresponding increase in revenue from local operations with the rise in passenger volume.

"We want to make this route more profitable for Frankfurt. We hope that one day, we can have non-stop flights to Manila again," said Zimmer during the Wednesday launch of the airline's new Airbus business class seats.

Lufthansa services the Manila-Frankfurt-Manila route daily. From Manila, the plane stops in Canton, China, for technical checks and to pick up passengers going to Frankfurt.

The German airline used to stop in B angkok to unload and pick up passengers.

The stopover proved not very profitable for Lufthansa as the majority of the passengers would alight in Bangkok, whether coming from Manila or Frankfurt. This prompted the airline to stop the Bangkok route.

The Lufthansa official said that while the load factor of 92 percent was higher when the airline was stopping in Bangkok than the 80-percent load factor of the Canton route, the revenue was more robust now as more passengers from Manila fly straight to Europe.

He said two-thirds of the current volume were passengers from the Philippines going to Europe and only one-third were passengers from Canton going to Frankfurt.

Lufthansa started offering late this month the so-called "PrivateBed" on business class to and from Manila. The seat is equipped with a 10.4-inch personal video screen, laptop connection and Internet service. The seat allows for an angle of up to nine degrees to the floor which transform it into a flat bed.

In 1998, there were eight airlines serving the Manila-Europe route, such as the British Airways, Swissair, Air France, KLM, Alitalia, Lufthansa, Aeroflot and the Philippine Airlines. These carriers operated a combined 39 flights a week between Manila and seven European capitals, 12 of them non-stop services.

Today, the only ones left are Air France, KLM and Lufthansa and they fly less than 20 times weekly to and from certain European cities.

# Public sector deficit up . . .

From page B1

central bank. From P15.66 billion in 2003, the government last year allotted P17.478 billion for this purpose.

The impact of the deficits of the national government and the GOCCs on the fiscal position of the public sector was, however, partly offset by the surpluses posted by the GFIs, including Land Bank and Development Bank of the Philippines. The GFIs posted a budget surplus of P5.2 billion last year, up from P4.9 billion in 2003.

The state-owned pension funds—the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS)—posted a combined surplus of P25.142 billion, up from P17.586 billion.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, for its part, registered a surplus of P3.27 billion which, however, was lower than the previous year's P6.9 billion.

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28 March 2005

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However, members may still encash their PNB or UBP checks at the respective PNB or UBP branch anywhere in the country up to 31 May 2005 only. After this date, GSIS shall strictly enforce the crossed-check policy. This means that effective 1 June 2005, GSIS issued checks can only be encashed if deposited to the payee's bank account and shall no longer be accommodated for over-the-counter encashment.

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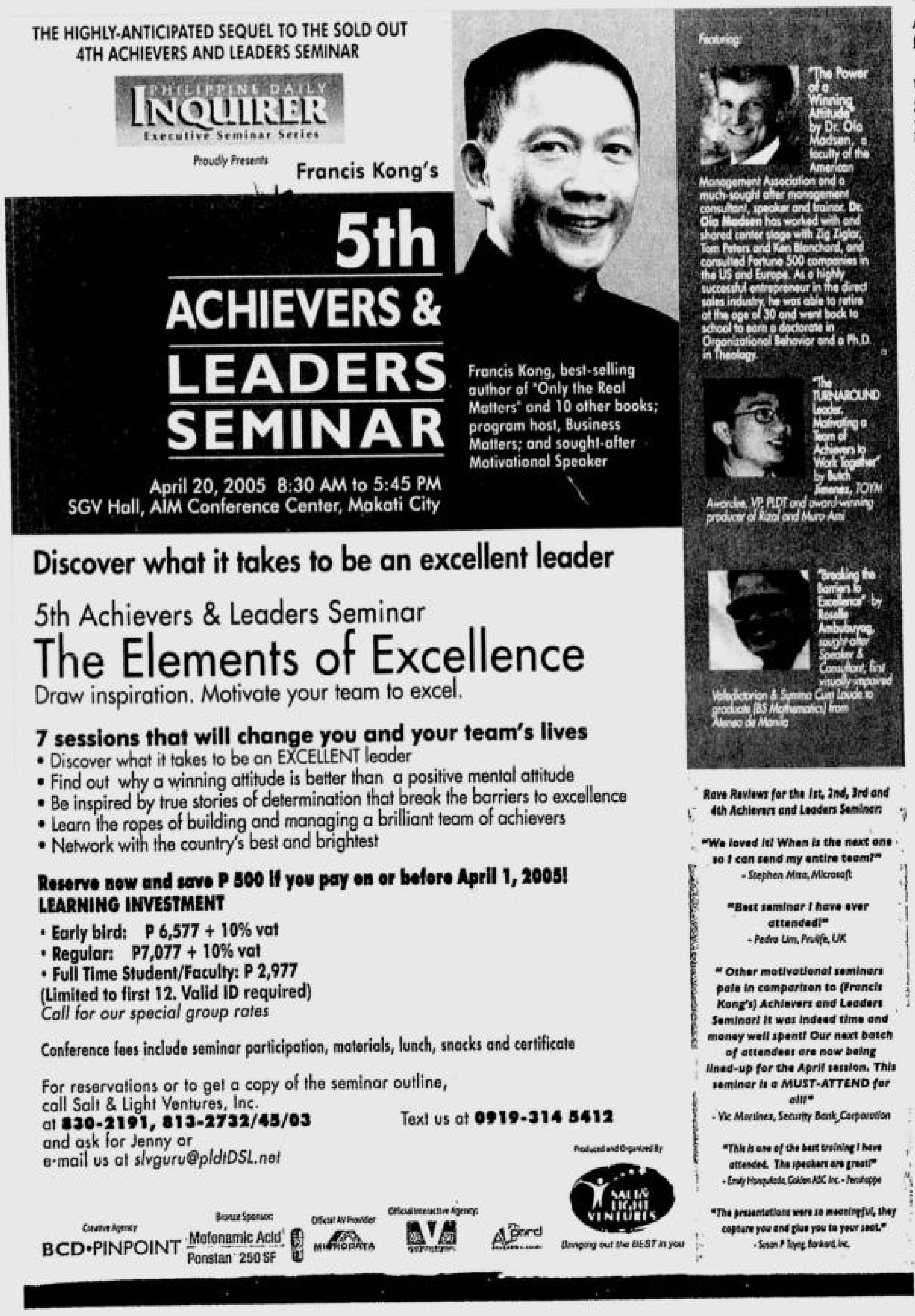

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Victor C. Agustin

BROTHERS Peter and Paul Rodriguez are not giving up their Audi dealership to insurance magnate Robert Coyiuto Jr. without a fight.

The Rodriguezes have sued Audi for breach of contract and managed to wangle a temporary restraining order from, of all places, a Pangasinan regional trial court.

Apparently, the Rodriguezes have a joint venture agreement sewn up with the Audi group during the go-go Ramos years to establish an assembly plant in FVR's province. That plant, which was also meant to assemble Protons from Malaysia, has since been idled by the currency crisis.

According to the grapevine, the TRO proved to be an empty victory, because the court order covered only the province. At the last count, unless you include the Audi 6 of Pangalatoc partner-lawyer Leonardo Siguion Reyna, sales of the Teutonic luxury vehicle in the province amounted to a big, fat zero.

If you can believe lawyers, the Rodriguezes have asked their former foreign partner for 30 million euros in return for permanent peace. Hearing the demand, the normally dour Germans could not help but roll in laughter and utter disbelief, according to the legal chatter.

Meanwhile, the birth pains of a new dealership have taken a personal toll on the Coyiutos themselves. A 12-year-old Coyiuto nephew suffered a fractured shoulder and ribs after a silver A4 Quattro the Audi team was trying out in the foggy, winding roads of Tagaytay Highlands wrapped itself around an electric pole on Black Saturday.

The young Coyiuto is recovering quite well, thank goodness. His father, Mike, Robert's brother who is in charge of the Porsche and the coming Audi dealership, suffered only minor scratches, despite also failing to strap himself with seatbelt.

Unfortunately, one Audi salesman lost his life in that accident. The silver bullet was totaled.

### Internet at 35,000 feet

AND speaking of the Germans, Lufthansa established a local record of sorts when it became the first airline to offer unlimited on-board Internet access to Manila passengers.

Last Monday, Lufthansa began using the spanking new Airbus A340-600 for its Manila-Guangzhou-Frankfurt flight, whose Recaro-designed lie-flat business class seats also offer Internet and WLAN connections.

Along with the new route and the new aircraft, Lufthansa appears determined to push the Philippines as a tourist destination as well. Proof of this is that the new country manager, Christopher Zimmer went to Boracay four times even when he was still assigned to frigid Poland, and a Philippine posting was still a gleam in his eyes.

If the first few months of traffic proves encouraging, Lufthansa just might junk the technical stop in Guangzhou and convert its daily flights to Frankfurt non-stop and give KLM-Air France—currently the lone airline that flies straight to Europe (via Amsterdam) out of Manila—real competition.

### Steak a la pobre

ANGARA party treasurer, steakhouse owner Carmelo "Melo" Santiago, may have to first raise funds for himself and his trouble-ridden son-in-law before his political duties.

Santiago's son-in-law, Richard Rivera, was arrested by the Makati police Monday night in his call center office after Makati Prosecutor Antonio Lim Jr. charged Rivera with estafa.

Unfortunately for Santiago, he was also charged with violation of Batas Pambansa 22, since the rubbery P4-million check that his son-in-law had allegedly issued as collateral in a soured business transaction was Santiago's personal check.

Santiago, in his defense, said that the check had been stolen from his files and that he was be-

COCKTALES/ B6

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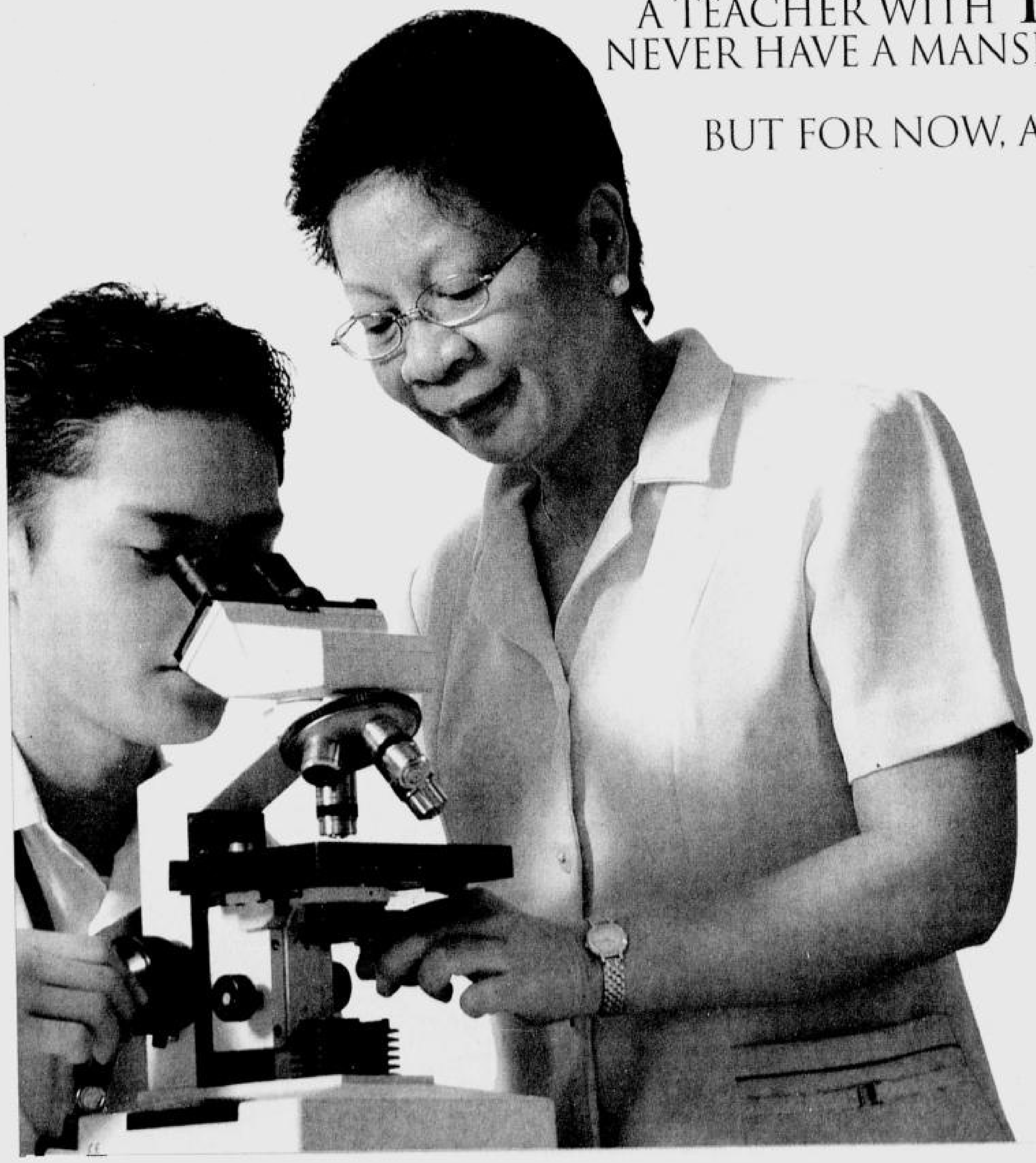

Dr. Josette Biyo
Filipino Teacher
Worldwide winner, 2002 Intel
Excellence in Teaching Award, USA

In May 2002, Dr. Josette Talamera-Biyo bested 4,000 teachers from all over the world, to become the first Asian winner of the Intel award.

"I hoped to be a medical doctor," she recalls. "But for lack of finances, I took the first job available. The day I entered the classroom, I knew I wanted to be an excellent teacher." For 23 years now, she has made science come alive for her students. "I focus on what I can do – make the most complicated subject simple, without losing the essence."

No wonder then, whether it be her retirement, her children's future or her most precious tools – a laptop and projector – she prefers a company that shares her focus: keeping things simple yet thorough. No rocket science needed here. Dr. Biyo puts it simply– "With Pioneer, I get it."

*Planet Biyo, a minor planet in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. Identified by the Lincoln Laboratory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and named after Dr. Josette Biyo in November 2002, as part of the Intel award.

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# Higher expenses pulled down by 25% ABS-CBN profit in '04

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. said its 2004 net income slipped by 25 percent to P758 million from P1 billion in 2003 due to higher expenses.

ABS-CBN president Luis Alejandro said this year would be more challenging for the network because of the highly competitive environment.

ALEJANDRO

In a briefing yesterday, ABS-CBN officials said the company's consolidated cost and operating expenses hit P12.05 billion, up 16 percent from last year due to higher cash operating expenses, which included production costs, general and administrative expenses, and cost of sales and services. Cash operating expenses spiked 19 percent last year due to the growth in production costs.

Production costs accounted for the bulk of the total operating expenses which hit P4.16 billion, or up by 19 percent from previous year's level.

The rise in production cost was attributed to the rise in personnel expenses and talent fees brought about by the increased station-produced shows in place of canned programs.

Local programs replaced Spanish *telenovelas* and animation programs.

The higher production costs was also brought about by the special effects involved in the making of fantasy soap operas such as "Marina" and "Krystala."

General and administrative expenses grew double digit driven by higher personnel expenses and ABS-CBN Global's entry into new territories. The increase in personnel cost was due to higher headcount, salary increases, separation costs and payout of incentives for the prior year's performance.

ABS-CBN Global's start-up operations in Europe and Australia contributed to the growth of taxes and licensing fees, advertising and promotions expenses.

Net revenue was up by 7 percent to P13.5 billion from P12.64 billion.

ABS CBN Global remained the biggest contributor to net sales and services with a total share of 71 percent of the total.

ABS-CBN Global's net sales and services increased 29 percent to P3.05 billion from the previous year's level.

Alejandro said the television company was scheduled to launch new shows in the next few months, including those in the fantaserye genre like "Panday" and "Kampanerang Kuba."

# ATR KE told to dump shares in GR Life

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission (SEC) has directed pre-need firm The Professional Financial Plans (TPG) to comply with pre-need rules and dispose of its 22 percent in GE Life Insurance Co.

The SEC issued the ruling to settle a complaint lodged by the LBC Group, one of TPG's major shareholders, against ATR KE Capital, one of the trust fund managers of the pre-need firm.

The LBC Group had alleged that there was a breach of duty when ATR KE Capital used the TPG's trust fund to pay for the investment in GE Life.

Abelardo Cortez, ATR KE Capital director and trust officer, in a statement said that the trust fund manager would seek a 90-day consideration from the SEC to complete the divestment in GE Life.

"Now that the SEC has directed us to divest of the GE Life investment from the TPG Trust Fund, we will seek their consideration to give us 90 days to complete the sale which, we believe, is reasonable to ask," Cortez said in a statement.

"We believe that the SEC had nothing but the best interest of the pre-need industry in mind when it issued this directive," he added. "[The SEC] wanted to diffuse any controversy to remove all doubts regarding the safety of the TPG Trust Fund."

Cortez also said that ATR KE Capital would like to engage the services of an independent financial advisor to make sure the TPG Trust Fund would get the best deal. The third party adviser would assist ATR KE Capital in the divestment.

According to Cortez, the GE Life shares is a good investment and its business has been profitable.

"Hence we also believe that the stock could now be sold at a price which will yield a good return for the TPG Trust Fund," Cortez said.

The SEC directive was based on rule 17.1 of the new pre-need rules, said Emilio Aquino, SEC non-traditional securities and instruments department director.

*Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

# A technology crying for support

COMMENTARY

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

ROBERTO Versola, SRI Pilipinas national coordinator, is puzzled. Thousands of rice farmers are disappointed. Supporters of the low cost, organically oriented System of Rice Intensification (SRI) are losing hope.

Despite the positive research results and the public statements of support given by several Department of Agriculture officials, the DA Rice Program central office last week said that SRI would get whatever financial support it could get from the regional offices, but none from the central office. This is in contrast with the more than P500 million that the central office will give to the hybrid rice program.

There is some good news. Philrice, the DA agency in charge of rice technology, found much merit in SRI. It is significantly increasing financial support for it. However, this will result in less than one fifth of one percent of the hybrid rice program budget.

There is one last chance. SRI can get financial support from the remaining rice discretionary budgets given to the regions. So far, only two out of 16 DA regional offices (Western Mindanao and Caraga) have committed SRI support. The rest of the regions will make their decisions during their regional meetings conducted this April.

## Why SRI

A week ago, we met with Cornell University professor Norman Uphoff, the foremost SRI global proponent. When he heard about the P500-million hybrid rice support from central office and none for SRI, he was taken aback.

In a primer he recently developed upon the request of Versola, Uphoff stated: "The System of Rice Intensification (SRI)—by changing the way that rice plants, soil, water and nutrients are managed—can have its most dramatic effects on yields, generally raising yields by 50-100 percent or more. But there are many other reasons why farmers and their governments should consider adopting SRI practices."

Here are some of the reasons:

- SRI yield increases are obtained not only by farmers producing at a low level but also by farmers using modern methods. A study in China showed that farmers using modern high input technology increased their average 7.5-ton per hectare harvest to 10.5 tons when they used SRI methods. In India, this proved true in both wet and dry seasons. The conclusion is that SRI methods add 2.5 to 3 tons per hectare in rice yields.
- SRI not only works in small scale plots but also in large areas. NVKD Raju's 100-acre rice farm in India yielded an average of 11.2 tons per hectare. While the highest yields can be obtained on small intensively managed plots, substantial increases can also be obtained on a large scale.

For the Philippines, as land reform and the high population growth rate force farmers to till increasingly smaller plots of land, SRI becomes doubly important because of its perfect suitability for smaller plots.

- SRI usually reduces cost of production. This, together with higher yields, increases farmer profitability and income. Studies show an average 20 percent cost reduction in several countries. Uphoff states: "While evaluations show a range in the reductions in cost of production with SRI, and under some conditions this can increase, the associated increases in profitability ranged from 22 to 114 percent with an average increase of 73 percent. Few innovations have attained such gains from different countries and with large numbers of farmers."
- SRI becomes more attractive as water scarcity becomes a more pervasive agricultural constraint. This is especially applicable to the Philippines where, even today, we feel the effects of El Niño. Since SRI methods induce rice plants to grow much larger and deeper root systems, they are more resistant to the effects of drought and little water.
- SRI reduces farmers' risks due to resistance to biotic (e.g. water) and abiotic (e.g. pests and diseases) stresses plus reduced cost of production. Studies in Cambodia showed that the incidence from net loss from rice production was an average 30 percent for conventional production methods and only 4 percent with SRI.
- Because it has practically no capital requirements, with any purchases necessary except learning new methods, SRI is especially accessible for the poor. Uphoff states: "Being able to get significantly higher yields from their small parcels of land makes SRI valuable for enhancing food security... SRI should be able to help many rural households who live in perpetual debt because of their food deficits to get out from under this burden."

## Conclusion

Every technology has its advantages and disadvantages. While hybrid rice has the promise of high yields, it uses heavy chemical inputs and can result in losses if used inappropriately.

Similarly, SRI must be properly implemented. It is recommended that the farmer tries this first in a smaller plot of 1/10 to 1/4 of a hectare to test its suitability before expansion to the entire farm.

We have a real asset in the competence of DA rice program manager Francisco Malabanan. When I supervised the rice program in 2001, we were told that the 700,000 hectares that used certified rice seeds would drop significantly because of the P150-million cut in the budget. Instead, with creative management methods, we more than doubled certified rice usage to 1.5 million hectares, resulting in record rice yields and increased farmer incomes.

It is hoped that Malabanan uses these same methods in explaining and managing the SRI option during the regional rice program meetings this April. Versola (0919-6087073) can be used as an SRI resource person for this.

The DA regional executive directors will largely determine the level of SRI support in their respective regions. To a significant degree, these meetings will also determine the future of SRI, food security, and the welfare of the small rice farmers in the Philippines.

*(The author is the chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative; former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary for agriculture, and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 8516635)*

# Cocktales

From page B5

ing blackmailed into making good the payment.

## Money-go-round

- SEC Commissioner Fe Gloria says her retirement package for her 33 years of government service "will not even reach P10 million," contrary to the P18-million figure reported in this column on Wednesday.
- JAIME Augusto Zobel de Ayala II has acquired and is renovating an apartment in the Upper East Side of Manhattan, and that was why he had to dispose of a sizable bloc of Ayala Land shares late last year.

## Heard through the grapevine

THE REPORTED meeting of new Manila Golf Club president Ferdinand Martin Romualdez with past MGC presidents to discuss the fate of two members who allegedly erased their cards to improve their scores in the last Golden Tee tournament is getting ahead of the story.

Why? The investigating committee chaired by lawyer Alfonso "Boy" Reyno has yet to submit its report to the board. Romualdez, at the time of this writing, was still overseas, enjoying an extended Holy Week holiday.

Reyno himself was absent during the last membership meeting when outgoing president Cesar Cruz, to the puzzlement of not a few members, declared that score-fixing had indeed been committed.

*(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)*

# DISCLOSURES

ANTON Subowo declined to assume his position as director of Pacifica Inc.

* * *

**LIBERTY Flour Mills Inc.** will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 25, 4 p.m. at the Liberty Building, Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City. Record date is April 29.

* * *

**A. BROWN Co. Inc.** bought 50,000 of its own shares at P0.95 each.

* * *

**INTERNATIONAL Container Terminal Services Inc.** will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 21, 10 a.m. at the Rigodon Ballroom of the Peninsula Manila, Makati City. Record date is March 15.

* * *

**REPUBLIC Glass Holdings Corp.** will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 29, 3 p.m. at the 2/F of Republic Glass Building, Legaspi Village, Makati City. Record date is March 18.

* * *

**THE PHILODRILL Corp.** will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 29, 3 p.m. at the La Colina room of Valle Verde Country Club, Pasig City. Record date is April 15.

* * *

**SALCON Power Corp.** will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 31, 9:30 a.m. at the Manila Polo Club. Record date is April 29.

* * *

**BENGUET Corp.** will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 29, 3 p.m. at the Sign of the Anvil, 5/F of Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of May 5 will be entitled to notice of and vote at the meeting.

* * *

**ASIAN Terminals Inc.** will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 28, 2 p.m. at the Visayas Ballroom of Westin Philippine Plaza, Pasay City. Stockholders of record as of March 29 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

# PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of March 31, 2005)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES** | | | | | |
| **BANKS** | | | | | |
| Banco de Oro Univ. Bank | 26 | 27.5 | 25.5 | 27 | 361,300 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 51.5 | 52 | 50 | 51 | 877,300 |
| China Banking Corp. | 660 | 690 | 660 | 685 | 500 |
| Export and Ind. Bank Inc. | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.66 | 0.67 | 5,910,000 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 46.5 | 47 | 45 | 47 | 40,800 |
| International Exch. Bank | 18.25 | 18.25 | 18.25 | 18.25 | 14,500 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 33.5 | 35 | 33.5 | 34.5 | 453,200 |
| Philippine National Bank | 33 | 34 | 32.5 | 34 | 182,800 |
| Phil. Savings Bank | 32 | 33 | 32 | 33 | 8,200 |
| Philippine Trust Co. | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 900 |
| Rizal Comm. Banking Corp. | 13.75 | 13.75 | 13.75 | 13.75 | 4,000 |
| Security Bank Corp. | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 160,000 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 28 | 28 | 28 | 28 | 88,800 |
| **FINANCIAL SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Filipino Fund Inc. | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 1,000 |
| First Metro Invest. Corp. | 250 | 260 | 250 | 260 | 560 |
| Manulife Financial Corp. | 2540 | 2545 | 2540 | 2545 | 1,080 |
| PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc. | 1.08 | 1.08 | 1.08 | 1.08 | 5,000 |
| Phil. Stock Exchange Inc. | 149 | 150 | 149 | 150 | 20,710 |
| Sun Life Financial Inc. | 1725 | 1730 | 1725 | 1725 | 910 |
| **COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL** | | | | | |
| **COMMUNICATION** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.25 | 15.25 | 20,700 |
| Digital Telecom Phils Inc. | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.14 | 1.18 | 13,292,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 880 | 880 | 875 | 880 | 90,020 |
| Island Info and Tech Inc. | 0.048 | 0.048 | 0.048 | 0.048 | 2,000,000 |
| ISM Communications Corp. | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 1,900,000 |
| Pilipino Tel. Corp. | 3.3 | 3.3 | 3.25 | 3.3 | 3,588,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 1390 | 1390 | 1375 | 1385 | 227,260 |
| Ivantage Corp. | 0.72 | 0.75 | 0.72 | 0.75 | 870,000 |
| Philweb Corp. | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.019 | 0.02 | 104,000,000 |
| **POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES** | | | | | |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 18 | 18.5 | 18 | 18.25 | 57,000 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 26.5 | 26.5 | 26 | 26 | 43,500 |
| Manila Water Co. Inc. | 6.4 | 6.7 | 6.3 | 6.6 | 24,088,000 |
| Petron Corp. | 3.45 | 3.6 | 3.45 | 3.55 | 1,852,000 |
| Trans-Asia Oil and Energy | 1.42 | 1.42 | 1.36 | 1.4 | 129,000 |
| **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Asian Terminals Inc. | 1.88 | 1.9 | 1.88 | 1.9 | 55,000 |
| Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp. | 1.72 | 1.72 | 1.72 | 1.72 | 2,000 |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 7.5 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 7.5 | 99,000 |
| Keppel Phils. Marine Inc. | 0.53 | 0.53 | 0.51 | 0.51 | 120,000 |
| Lorenzo Shipping Corp. | 1.04 | 1.04 | 1.04 | 1.04 | 2,000 |
| **CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS** | | | | | |
| Engineering Equip. Inc. | 0.62 | 0.62 | 0.59 | 0.6 | 390,000 |
| Holcim Philippines Inc. | 3.7 | 3.8 | 3.65 | 3.8 | 1,902,000 |
| Phil Nat'l Const. Corp. | 3.15 | 3.2 | 3.15 | 3.2 | 4,000 |
| **FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO** | | | | | |
| Alaska Milk Corp. | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.65 | 3.7 | 35,000 |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 28.5 | 28.5 | 28 | 28.5 | 568,000 |
| RFM Corp. | 0.95 | 0.95 | 0.92 | 0.95 | 120,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 55.5 | 56 | 55.5 | 56 | 777,500 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 81 | 81.5 | 80.5 | 81.5 | 886,700 |
| Universal Robina Corp. | 12.25 | 12.5 | 12.25 | 12.5 | 268,900 |
| Vitarich Corp. | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 500,000 |
| **HOLDING FIRMS** | | | | | |
| Abacus Con Res & Hdg A | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 7,000,000 |
| Ayala Corp. | 7.8 | 7.8 | 7.6 | 7.6 | 6,874,000 |
| Alsons Cons. Res. Inc. | 0.52 | 0.52 | 0.52 | 0.52 | 50,000 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.55 | 4.55 | 290,000 |
| Ajo Net Holdings Inc. | 0.044 | 0.047 | 0.043 | 0.044 | 2,600,000 |
| A. Soriano Corp. | 1.98 | 2.1 | 1.96 | 2.1 | 2,451,000 |
| APC Group Inc. | 0.42 | 0.42 | 0.37 | 0.37 | 2,810,000 |
| Alcorn Gold Res. Corp. | 0.007 | 0.007 | 0.007 | 0.007 | 10,000,000 |
| Aries Prime Res. Inc. | 1.38 | 1.44 | 1.38 | 1.44 | 23,000 |
| Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc. | 15.25 | 15.25 | 15 | 15 | 4,300 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.06 | 1.1 | 29,864,000 |
| Crown Equities Inc. | 0.235 | 0.24 | 0.235 | 0.235 | 3,600,000 |
| Southeast Asian Cement | 0.44 | 0.44 | 0.44 | 0.44 | 200,000 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc. | 3.35 | 3.5 | 3.35 | 3.4 | 1,502,000 |
| Ever-Gotesco Resources | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 3,200,000 |
| Filinvest Dev. Corp. | 1.48 | 1.5 | 1.48 | 1.5 | 34,000 |
| Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp. | 9.3 | 9.7 | 9.3 | 9.5 | 277,000 |
| First Phil Hldgs Corp. | 50.5 | 51.5 | 50.5 | 51.5 | 365,200 |
| Forum Pacific Inc. | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 250,000 |
| Global Equities Inc. | 0.105 | 0.105 | 0.1 | 0.105 | 17,650,000 |
| House of Investments Inc. | 1.62 | 1.62 | 1.62 | 1.62 | 160,000 |
| IPVG Corp. | 3 | 3.3 | 3 | 3.3 | 15,000 |
| J.G. Summit Holdings Inc. | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 393,000 |
| Macroasia Corp. | 2.04 | 2.04 | 2 | 2 | 76,000 |
| Medco Holdings | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 50,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 1.44 | 1.44 | 1.36 | 1.36 | 3,789,000 |
| Mabuhay Holdings Corp. | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 200,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.49 | 0.49 | 0.47 | 0.48 | 44,500,000 |
| Prime Orion Phils. Inc. | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 40,000 |
| SM Investments Corp. | 217 | 228 | 217 | 228 | 5,231,270 |
| South China Resources Inc. | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 0.7 | 430,000 |
| Uniwide Holdings Inc. | 0.17 | 0.175 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 3,850,000 |
| Waterfront Phils. Inc. | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 120,000 |
| **MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING** | | | | | |
| Music Semiconductors Corp. | 1.66 | 1.66 | 1.66 | 1.66 | 34,000 |
| Picop Resources Inc. | 0.135 | 0.135 | 0.135 | 0.135 | 500,000 |
| **HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Belle Corp. | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 14,400,000 |
| Fairmont Holdings Inc. | 1.04 | 1.04 | 1 | 1 | 525,000 |
| Leisure & Resorts Corp. | 1.48 | 1.48 | 1.42 | 1.46 | 2,389,000 |
| Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc. | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 2,100,000 |
| Philippine Racing Club | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 20,000 |
| **BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr) | 15 | 15.5 | 15 | 15.25 | 358,000 |
| ATS Corp. - Preferred | 3.05 | 3.05 | 3.05 | 3.05 | 10,000 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series W | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 200 |
| **OTHERS** | | | | | |
| Centro Escolar University | 6.6 | 6.6 | 6.6 | 6.6 | 436,000 |
| **PROPERTY** | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 8.3 | 8.4 | 8.3 | 8.3 | 16,267,000 |
| Cyber Bay Corp. | 0.25 | 0.28 | 0.25 | 0.28 | 1,450,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | 0.48 | 0.48 | 0.48 | 0.48 | 9,350,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 1.48 | 1.52 | 1.44 | 1.5 | 19,146,000 |
| Highlands Prime Inc. | 2.4 | 2.55 | 2.4 | 2.55 | 200,000 |
| Kuok Phil. Properties | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 1,040,000 |
| Fil-Estate Land Inc. | 0.68 | 0.68 | 0.68 | 0.68 | 300,000 |
| Philippine Estates Corp. | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 10,000 |
| Robinsons Land Corp. | 4.8 | 4.85 | 4.8 | 4.85 | 255,000 |
| Phil Realty and Holdings | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 3,410,000 |
| SM Development Corp. | 1.68 | 1.86 | 1.68 | 1.8 | 805,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 7.7 | 7.9 | 7.7 | 7.8 | 3,394,000 |
| Zipporah Rlty Hldgs Inc. | 0.225 | 0.225 | 0.225 | 0.225 | 10,000 |
| **MINING** | | | | | |
| Abra Mining & Industrial | 0.011 | 0.011 | 0.01 | 0.011 | 18,000,000 |
| Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't | 5.4 | 5.4 | 5.1 | 5.1 | 345,000 |
| Benguet Corp. A | 8.5 | 8.5 | 8.4 | 8.4 | 28,000 |
| Benguet Corp. B | 22.75 | 24 | 22.75 | 24 | 4,800 |
| Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A | 0.35 | 0.36 | 0.34 | 0.35 | 3,300,000 |
| Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B | 0.38 | 0.39 | 0.38 | 0.38 | 2,610,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. A | 0.016 | 0.016 | 0.016 | 0.016 | 14,100,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. B | 0.02 | 0.021 | 0.02 | 0.021 | 24,300,000 |
| Omico Corp. | 0.008 | 0.008 | 0.0075 | 0.0075 | 86,000,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. A | 1.12 | 1.16 | 1.12 | 1.14 | 671,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. B | 1.32 | 1.36 | 1.32 | 1.36 | 1,541,000 |
| Semirara Mining Corp. | 38 | 38.5 | 38 | 38 | 1,077,400 |
| United Paragon Mining Co. | 0.25 | 0.27 | 0.25 | 0.27 | 150,000 |
| **OIL** | | | | | |
| Interport Res. B | 0.0055 | 0.0055 | 0.0055 | 0.0055 | 10,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. A | 0.006 | 0.006 | 0.006 | 0.006 | 32,000,000 |
| The Philodrill Corp. A | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 80,000 |
| Pacifica | 0.012 | 0.013 | 0.012 | 0.013 | 20,000,000 |
| Sinophil Corp. | 0.18 | 0.195 | 0.175 | 0.195 | 6,370,000 |

# Sumitomo Mitsui . . .

From page B1

Holdings Ltd. Its market capitalization stood at P118 billion at end 2004 as against the book value of P52 billion.

The country's oldest bank reported a net income of P6.7 billion last year, P1 billion or 17 percent higher than P5.7 billion in 2003, boosted by higher revenue and effective cost management.

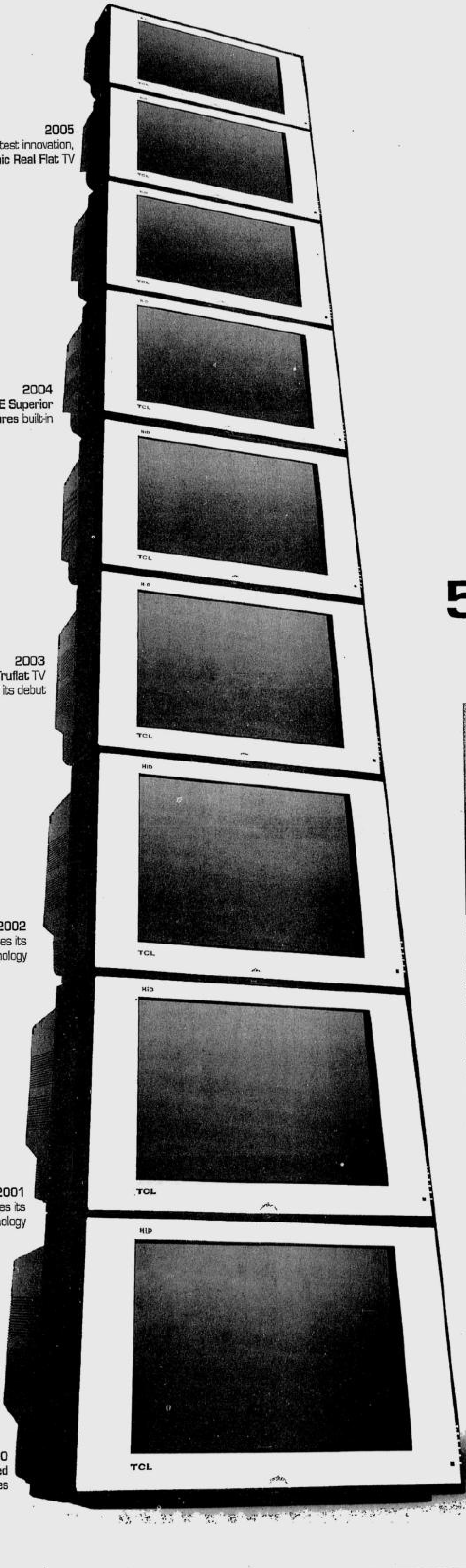
Its return on equity improved to 12.5 percent from 11.1 percent in the previous year while return on assets rose to 1.6 percent from 1.5 percent.

This year, BPI aims to post a 5-10 percent growth in net profits over 2004 despite expectations of more difficult business environment.

BPI's new CEO Aurelio Montinola III said BPI hoped to continue outperforming the local banking sector this year, but not at the expense of asset quality. BPI will also strive to be more "customer-oriented," he said.

# CURRENCIES

| March 31, 2005<br>Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Dollar Equivalent | Peso Equivalent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 0.773814 | 1.000000 | 54.7930 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.007200 | 0.009304 | 0.5098 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.454461 | 1.879600 | 102.9889 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.099216 | 0.128217 | 7.0254 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.645383 | 0.834028 | 45.6989 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.636360 | 0.822368 | 45.0600 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.468609 | 0.605583 | 33.1817 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.597079 | 0.771605 | 42.2786 |
| Bahrain | Dinar* | 2.052667 | 2.652661 | 145.3473 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.206345 | 0.266660 | 14.6111 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.467194 | 0.603755 | 33.0815 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000081 | 0.000105 | 0.0058 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.019720 | 0.025484 | 1.3963 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.210688 | 0.272272 | 14.9186 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 1.292300 | 70.8090 |
| Argentina | Peso | 0.265459 | 0.343053 | 18.7969 |
| Brazil | Real | 0.289276 | 0.373832 | 20.4834 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134243 | 0.173482 | 9.5056 |
| India | Rupee | 0.017712 | 0.022889 | 1.2542 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.203662 | 0.263193 | 14.4211 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.069060 | 0.089246 | 4.8901 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.548882 | 0.709320 | 38.8658 |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.122282 | 0.158025 | 8.6587 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | 0.013038 | 0.016849 | 0.9232 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.122779 | 0.158667 | 8.6938 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000757 | 0.000978 | 0.0536 |
| Sweden | Kroner | 0.109591 | 0.141625 | 7.7601 |
| Syria | Pound | 0.014907 | 0.019264 | 1.0555 |
| Taiwan | Nt Dollar | 0.024391 | 0.031520 | 1.7271 |
| Venezuela | Bolivar | 0.000361 | 0.000466 | 0.0255 |



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**2002**
TCL launches its
**BlueDot** Technology

**2001**
TCL introduces its
**Hybrid** Technology

**2000**
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**Expect more.**
**Get more.**

# HP board to ask new CEO to revise business strategy

SAN FRANCISCO—A Hewlett-Packard Co. director said Wednesday that the board would look to newly named chief executive Mark Hurd to recommend sweeping changes in strategy at the ailing computer and printer maker.

HP director Patricia C. Dunn, who headed the executive search committee that announced Hurd's appointment Tuesday, said the board would ask Hurd to make major decisions about the company—including whether to break HP into two or more pieces and how to improve financial performance in all five divisions.

That's a stark contrast to the widely perceived notion that HP's board selected Hurd because he agreed to follow the business strategy of his predecessor, Carly Fiorina.

The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times reported Wednesday that Hurd would steer HP in the same direction it has been going for years—in particular that he would keep the diversified technology concern intact.

Actively soliciting strategy decisions from the CEO also is a departure from comments of HP directors as recently as last month.

On Feb. 9, directors ousted Fiorina, a marketing executive who spearheaded the company's $19 billion (euro14.7 billion) acquisition of Compaq Computer Co., saying they didn't have a problem with the business strategy—only that she didn't execute it quickly enough.

"Strategy is a living, breathing thing, and it's the responsibility of the CEO to recommend strategy, and I'm sure Mark will do that," Dunn said Wednesday during a 20-minute conference call with financial analysts.

Hewlett-Packard shares slipped 3 cents to $21.75 in morning trading on the New York Stock Exchange after rising 10 percent in the previous session. Its shares have traded in a range of $16.08 and $23.75 over the past 52 weeks.

Hurd was a unanimous pick of HP's board of directors and will assume the CEO responsibilities next week.

*AP*

# US economy up 3.8% in '04

WASHINGTON—The US economy ended 2004 with brisk momentum on the strongest surge in corporate profits in three years, the government reported on Wednesday, but upward pressure on prices appeared to be growing.

Gross domestic product, the measure of total output within US borders, grew at a 3.8 percent annual pace in the fourth quarter, the same as estimated a month ago, the Commerce Department said in a final estimate of GDP performance.

That was slightly under the 4 percent pace Wall Street analysts had forecast but still reflected healthy growth, only slightly below the third quarter's 4 percent rate.

Most private-sector analysts anticipate steady expansion during 2005 but with some drag from rising oil prices as the year wears on.

US crude oil futures dipped below $53 a barrel on Wednesday after a government survey showed oil inventories increased last week, but that is still a far heftier tag for oil than was the case last year.

The revisions in the final estimate of fourth-quarter GDP were minor but they included a slight bump up in a key price measure, which set nerves on edge in financial markets.

The department noted that business inventories grew at a slightly smaller annual rate of $47.2 billion instead of $51 billion estimated a month earlier. But that was largely offset by upward revisions to exports and spending on costly durable goods, including new cars.

Economist Peter Kretzmer said slower inventory growth was a positive for the economy, since it implies production levels must stay high to meet demand.

"This change improves the composition of GDP growth, with firms bringing leaner inventory positions into 2005," he said.

Corporate profits after taxes climbed 12.5 percent in the fourth quarter to a record seasonally adjusted annual rate of $973 billion -- the strongest increase since an 18.9 percent surge in the fourth quarter of 2001.

The profits measure is adjusted for the value of existing inventories and for depreciation of capital equipment, so it reflects earnings from current production.

Profits had fallen 4.2 percent in the third quarter after a series of hurricanes wreaked havoc in several southeastern states.

There was some evidence that inflation was perking up, which initially hurt bond prices and the dollar.

The effect of inflation is to erode the value of foreigners' assets in the United States at a time when America is heavily reliant on foreign investment to finance its huge deficits on trade and on the budget.

*Reuters*

## Jaime and Barton Villa:

# The Dynamic Duo of Speed

by Michael A. Dar Santos

The elder Villa sharing a light moment with his only son, Barton.

Former Filipino racing champion Jaime Villa, Jr. remembers introducing his son Barton to the world of speed. Barton was only five years old when Jaime built him a go-kart. While the go-kart was up on a sloping street, Jaime placed his only son in the driver's seat and told him to brake if he felt he was going too fast. But the brakes fell off the blocks and Jaime was forced to chase the go-kart while Barton held on like a cowboy on a bucking bronco.

Finally, Jaime caught up with the go-kart to bring the impromptu ride to a halt. "I was petrified, and my wife who saw the whole thing didn't speak to me for a week," Jaime said. "But Barton loved it."

VILLAS all: Selena, Mikaela, wife Carolyn, Jaime Jr. and Barton.

Over two decades later, father and son continue to live on the edge through the newly-formed Enthusia professional racing circuit. Enthusia is considered by most underground racing enthusiasts as the ultimate speed paradise. Almost all of the licensed vehicles of over 40 car manufacturers participate in Enthusia. "When I was young, I always had a fondness for fast cars. It also brought out the competitive side in me," Jaime said.

Jaime's need for speed has brought him much fame and fortune. Financed by some of the country's wealthiest sponsors, Jaime took the global racing circuit by storm. Trained by some of the best drivers in Europe, Jaime earned the moniker "The Weasel" for his sharp turns and quick step at the throttle.

Living up to his moniker, Jaime also weaseled his way to the hearts of many women, among them former sexy actress Maria Davila, former beauty queen and international model Melissa Dizon, and singer Karla Mia. Although unconfirmed showbiz tattles claimed he sired children with one or two women, it was Fil-Am socialite Carolyn Roberts who finally put the brakes on Jaime's free-wheeling lifestyle.

"She is my rock. Carol straightened me up and helped me focus on what I want to do in life," Jaime said. When she gave birth to their first child Mikaela in 1974, Jaime decided to shift careers and started his own automotive parts business in the Philippines as well as in other Asian countries. Years later, two more kids, Barton and Selena, came into the Villas' lives.

While the two daughters pursued other business interests, it was Barton who took after his father's speed-loving attitude. "I've always grown up thinking everyone wanted to go fast," Barton said. "It's only since I've been racing these modified cars that I've met people saying, 'You're crazy.'"

Crazy? Not many who have completed the M.B.A. program at Georgetown University are labeled with that word. While living in Los Angeles, Barton worked for the management program of one of the world's top automotive companies. His fun, however, is a little more daring than others.

But daring isn't the way the 28-year-old looks at car racing. Competition is what drives him. "I'd go race people on a tricycle in the parking lot if a competition was at stake," Barton said. You have to remember his upbringing in a quiet neighborhood. "Dad raced Corvettes as a hobby, I raced Mustangs to relax."

His father's son, Barton caught the racing bug early on.

"When Barton was a little kid I tried to get him interested," Jamie said. "I didn't mean to push him into it. But it was just a way for us to do things together." In 1995, Barton, who was 18, began racing professionally and set a record in his first event in a 1,000-mile race around Italy.

"It's a little bit ego, a little bit macho," Barton said. "You go out and try to prove how tough you are. And then you try to prove that you can do it again. Losing is not an option." The next year, Jaime joined the team and built a formidable father-son racing team that won four world championships and two national championships along with setting several endurance and speed records. "We look at racing in a very scientific way," Barton said. "If you get rid of some of the variables that can slow you down, you'll get better."

Unfortunately for his father Jaime, some of the variables are starting to take their toll on him. After being diagnosed with liver cancer and hospitalized a month ago, Jaime started divesting his businesses to his children, especially to Barton, who will most likely manage the family business. Jaime was also said to be doing some things "to right the wrongs" he did to several people with whom he had run-ins during his life.

"I have a lot of regrets and made many mistakes for which someone close to my heart has never forgiven me. But I am hopeful that I can make amends, especially with the help of my son, Barton," Jaime said.

Once estranged, Jaime and Barton enjoy a more open and loving relationship now that the father's prodigal son has returned. "I'm ready to fully settle down again in the Philippines and take care of my dad. I'm saying goodbye to my wild ways in the US, if you could call it that. I've also re-established my contacts with old friends. I don't know who my dad is referring to about making amends with but whatever loose ends he has, I will fix them. My dad may not be perfect but I love him and I would do anything to protect everything he has worked so hard for. I promise to keep his legacy alive," Barton said.

The upcoming Enthusia rally is probably Jaime's swan song for the sport he has always loved. "I would just watch the race from my sick bed and cheer Barton on to win," Jaime said.

FAMILY TIES. Since he got back from the States, Barton has remained in close contact with his ex-girlfriend, chic wedding planner Vivienne Ledesma, as seen during his parents' silver anniversary celebration in February 1998.

Barton promised his dad that he'd bring their photo and place it in front of the dashboard. "He always gives his all in the races he's been. I consider my dad as the best Filipino race car driver ever," Barton said.

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# US cites 58 countries for unfair trade

WASHINGTON—Focusing on China, Japan and the European Union, the Bush administration accused 61 countries and groups of nations of setting up significant trade barriers that harm US manufacturers and farmers.

The government's 672-page report on trade barriers, issued Wednesday, is designed to guide US negotiators over the next year in trying to attack barriers seen as doing the most damage to American companies.

Should direct talks fail to produce results, the administration could bring cases before the World Trade Organization to deal with barriers that the United States believes has violated WTO rules.

"Consultations, negotiations and litigation are among the tools at our disposal, and we are using all of them aggressively to make sure that Americans are treated fairly," acting US Trade Representative Peter Allgeier said.

The report has been prepared annually for 20 years under legislation Congress passed in 1974 to require of the executive branch an accounting of which countries were erecting barriers most harmful to US exports.

As usual, the report devoted the most coverage to China: 58 pages. The report provides details of areas where the administration contends the Chinese are not living up to the market-opening promises they made to win their way into the WTO in late 2001.

The report said China failed to enforce its laws against the theft of American movies, computer software and other intellectual property.

A fact sheet accompanying the report said "epidemic levels" of counterfeiting and piracy in China were causing "serious economic harm to US businesses."

The United States, which had a record trade deficit of $617 billion last year, posted an imbalance with China of $162 billion. That was the largest deficit ever with a single country.

*AP*

# IBM eyes more applications for chip product

SAN FRANCISCO—IBM is taking the highly anticipated Cell chip technology at the heart of the future Sony PlayStation and offering to help customers design it into a far wider range of electronics, from aerospace to military to medical products, the company said on Wednesday.

"Cell" is a next-generation microprocessor aimed at the home entertainment market that is being jointly developed by International Business Machines Corp., Sony Corp. and Toshiba Corp.

Analysts expect the closely guarded chip development to be used in Sony's forthcoming "PlayStation 3" gaming console and in a line of advanced television sets from Toshiba, but until now it had not been targeted at other markets.

"It was never a given that IBM would necessarily open it up to a broader market," said Fred Zeiber, a chip analyst with research group Pathfinder, who sees IBM attracting customers in science and military research and consumer electronics makers.

While working jointly to develop Cell, IBM, Sony and Toshiba are allowed to separately market the resulting chip to their respective customers, IBM spokesman Cary Zieter said.

IBM said its Engineering & Technology Services (E&TS) unit, which acts as product design specialists on behalf of industrial customers including Boeing Co. and Honeywell International Inc., plans to help customers embed the Cell chip in electronics that require vivid graphic or video processing, among other functions.

While details remain sketchy, Cell is seen by analysts as promising in coming years to offer formidable competition in consumer electronic mass markets that Intel Corp., the world's top computer chipmaker, also covets. Early test data shows Cell able to churn data at speeds above 4 gigahertz, or billions of cycles a second, ahead of the fastest Intel chips.

*Reuters*

## CURBS ON INVESTMENT

# China pledges more measures to slow economy

SHANGHAI, China—China's top leaders have pledged more curbs on surging investment, warning that excess spending on steel factories and surging prices for iron ore threaten the economy.

The moves, announced by the government following a meeting of the State Council, China's cabinet, caused share prices on domestic bourses to slip early Thursday.

China has been imposing curbs on bank lending and restricting investment in some sectors it says have been expanding at an unsustainable pace, risking financial problems, straining energy and transport networks and pushing prices dangerously higher.

Investment in construction, factories and other "fixed assets," China's benchmark measure of capital spending, rose 24.5 percent in January-February compared with the same period a year earlier.

Although the pace of growth has been cut about in half from its peak a year ago, it was above the 21.3 percent on-year increase for December and far exceeded the government's target of 16 percent growth in such investments for all of 2005.

Officials have repeatedly said they fear a rebound.

The State Council said it would further tighten controls on steel investment and strictly control steel exports by eliminating tax rebates for exporters, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

The government also plans steps to deal with a surge in iron ore prices on the international market by strengthening coordination of imports and iron ore operations, it said.

Chinese steel makers are among many in the industry facing a 71.5 percent price increase for low-grade iron ore from Brazil-based Companhia Vale do Rio Doce SA, the world's largest ore producer.

The leaders agreed that China's economic situation is "good in general, but there exists quite a number of problems," the report said.

Share prices slipped Thursday on the news of further curbs on investment.

In early trading the Shanghai Composite Index lost 9.68 points, or 0.5 percent, to 1,166.89. The Shenzhen Composite Index fell 1.77 points, or 0.6 percent, to 292.49.

"Although the report is in line with previous government comments, it's still psychologically negative for the market," said Shen Zhengming, an analyst at Orient Securities in Shanghai. *AP*

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CEBU PACIFIC INQUIRER DepED DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION MIRIAM PEACE HARIBON FOUNDATION

# Asia hedge fund assets seen to hit $85B in '05

HONG KONG—Asia-Pacific hedge funds will be managing $85 billion to $90 billion by the end of the year, up as much as 20 percent from current levels, Andrew Sinclair, ABN AMRO's global co-head of hedge fund coverage, told Reuters.

Large, institutional-sized funds and US investors will help drive growth in the Asian market, which should surpass $130 billion in three years, Sinclair said on Wednesday.

"We're seeing a large number of US investors looking at the Asian market," said Sinclair, whose group provides services ranging from lending to trade processing for hedge funds.

Currently, hedge funds investing directly in Asia Pacific manage about $75 billion as the market has tripled in the last two and a half years, said Sinclair, who moved to ABN AMRO from UBS in May 2003.

The Asian market is still small, as hedge funds manage more than $1 trillion worldwide, but it is the fastest growing region in the world, Sinclair said.

ABN AMRO sold its prime brokerage business to UBS in 2003 for $250 million.

Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley have traditionally dominated the business in Asia, but rivals are creeping into the booming sector.

It is a business where costs are high—investment banks can spend up to $250 million a year on technology support for prime brokerage alone—and the typical hedge fund in Asia has six to eight banking relationships, Sinclair said.

Noting those characteristics, ABN AMRO decided to focus on offering specific services to hedge fund clients, rather than maintaining a prime brokerage unit, he said.

The strategy seems to be working: ABN AMRO's global revenue from hedge funds rose 40 percent last year and the Dutch firm expects the same performance in 2005, Sinclair said.

The firm picked up 113 new cross-product agreements in Asia in 2004, an 80 percent increase, and it expects to match that gain this year. Sinclair said ABN AMRO is adding staff in equity finance, sales and futures to serve the bigger client base.

Globally, investment banks earned $25 billion, or 12.5 percent of total revenues, in fees from hedge funds last year, according to a report this month from Credit Suisse First Boston.

Hedge funds in Asia should post returns of more than 10 percent this year, as rising interest rates and a strong regional economy should aid their strategies, he said. *Reuters*

# AIG admits improper accounting amid probe

NEW YORK—American International Group Inc. on Wednesday acknowledged accounting errors that could stretch back 14 years, including its treatment of a deal with Berkshire Hathaway that is at the center of federal and state investigations.

AIG's sweeping disclosures—including the possibility it may be forced to reduce the value of the company by $1.7 billion or 2 percent—were part of an effort to regain investor confidence.

They came just days after Chairman Maurice "Hank" Greenberg said he would retire after almost 40 years of leading the insurance powerhouse.

AIG, which has lost more than $40 billion in stock market value since mid-February, saw its shares sink 1.8 percent to $57.16 in heavy trade on the New York Stock Exchange on Wednesday. Standard & Poor's cut AIG's "AAA" debt rating, potentially making it more costly for the insurer to borrow money.

"It doesn't clear the decks," said Michael Chren, senior portfolio manager at National City Investment Management Co. in Cleveland. "I don't think we have bottomed out on the (bad) news, but I do think we've bottomed out on the stock price."

AIG's disclosures follow a meeting earlier this week between its attorneys and representatives from the US Justice Department, the US Securities and Exchange Commission and New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer's office.

The company now plans to delay filing its 2004 annual financial report—its second delay—until late April while it continues the review.

Among other transactions, authorities have looked at a 2000-2001 reinsurance deal AIG strlick with General Re Corp.—a unit of Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Inc.— that they believe AIG treated improperly in its accounting.

AIG admitted as much on Wednesday, saying the deal should have been classified as a deposit, not as insurance.

AIG said the new accounting should have little impact on its financial condition but would cut loss reserves and expenses by $250 million and raise other liabilities by $245 million.

The insurer also expects to take $670 million of after-tax charges related to its general insurance operations. But whether it restates more than just its fourth-quarter 2004 results remains to be determined.

A Spitzer spokesman declined to comment on specifics of AIG's statement but called it "a welcome step toward transparency and accountability as our investigation proceeds."

In addressing its accounting problems, AIG is attempting to restore credibility with investors who have watched the examination of its deal with General Re spread into investigations of dozens of questionable transactions. *Reuters*

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EPSON STYLUS CX6500
Regular ink price (*1 set*) 1,780.00
Promo price (*1 set*) 1,200.00
SAVE: 580.00

EPSON STYLUS PHOTO RX630
Regular ink price (*1 set*) 3,210.00
Promo price (*1 set*) 2,200.00
SAVE: *1,010.00

Promo period from April 01 to June 30, 2005
Per DTI - NCR Permit No. 1523 Series of 2005

# People, Events & Products

**E-mail:** pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

*Editor* **Aries Espinosa**

# Review for realty broker's exam set

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry (DTI), through the Bureau of Trade Regulation and Consumer Protection, has scheduled another licensure examination for real estate brokers on May 29. Successful examinees will qualify for licensing as real estate brokers.

In this regard, Urban Institute of Real Estate released recently the schedule of its upcoming Comprehensive Real Estate Seminar (CRES) and review that will be taken for a complete preparation for the DTI-supervised broker's licensure examination.

The Saturday section is scheduled on April 16, 23, 30, May 7, 14 and 21, from 1:15 to 6:45 p.m. while the Tuesday section will be on April 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17 and 24, same time. All sessions will be held at Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Park Square Drive corner Theater Drive, Ayala Center, Makati City. Both sections include a general review on the last day.

CRES will cover the following topics: DTI Rules and Regulations, Real Estate Finance, Eco and Accounting, National Code of Ethics, Subdivision Development, Problems on Subdivision Development, Real Estate Appraisal, Real Estate Assessment, Real Estate Taxation, Taxation, Problem Solving with E-Vat, Site Verification and Survey, Legal Aspects of Sale, Mortgage and Lease, Fundamentals of Property Ownership, Guide to Pag-Ibig Housing Loans, CARL with RA 7279 (UDHA), HLURB Rules with Ecology and Zoning, Condominium Concepts, Documentation and Registration, and Real Estate Brokerage Practice.

Lawyer Dennis Tablizo, a recognized legal expert on land laws, and engineer Enrico S. Cruz, the same team that produced a record passing rate of 92 percent, will lead experts and authorities in their respective field on the lectures on subjects prescribed by DTI.

For registration or more information, interested parties can call 681-0928 or text 0916-4269174 or e-mail urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

**QUALI PLUS INTERNATIONAL JOINS ACCES 2005**

Quali Plus International and LNA Management Group pose for posterity after signing the contract for joining the Asian Computer and Electronics Show (Acces 2005) from April 6 to 9 at the World Trade Center. Shown are De Dion Tan, managing director of Quali Plus International and Lizette Cruz, project manager of Acces 2005. Witnessing the agreement are Ces Dalawampu, project coordinator of Quali Plus International and Pimparie Jane Tiñana, trade promotions officer of LNA Management Group. Quali Plus International is a company offering better alternatives for various digital printing needs. It was given the exclusive rights to offer the Flora 2508 digital printing system in the Philippine market.

# PCI Leasing supports Kalinga Luzon

PCI LEASING & Finance Inc, a wholly owned subsidiary of Equitable PCI Bank, recently turned over a check donation of P400,000 to Ateneo de Manila University and Gawad Kalinga in support of Kalinga Luzon.

Kalinga Luzon, a project undertaken by the DSWD, Ateneo de Manila, Red Cross and ABS-CBN in partnership with Gawad Kalinga, was formed in response to last year's calamities caused by typhoons Winnie and Yoyong, which devastated towns in the provinces of Quezon, Aurora, Nueva Ecija, and Oriental Mindoro. It aims to go beyond the relief stage and work out an effective program to rehabilitate and rebuild affected communities in Luzon.

PCI Leasing & Finance Inc, which is part of the Equitable PCI Bank Group, has always supported various non-government organizations involved in philanthropic and civic programs as part of the bank's sustained efforts to promote social progress and corporate responsibility.

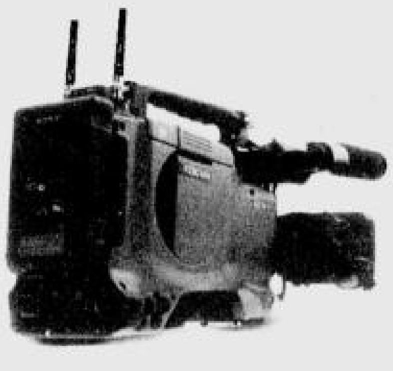
Previously, PCI Leasing supported the vision and goal of Gawad Kalinga to build homes and communities for the poor. The company was instrumental in providing the people of San Juan, Batangas a two-room barrio school building in its desire to help in youth education. Generous support was also accorded to Kapwa Ko Mahal Ko Foundation Inc and Muntinlupa Development Foundation, in the company's continuing thrust to reach out to the less fortunate in answering the call for nation building.

Equitable PCI Bank marks its 55th year this 2005. It is presently the country's third largest banking group, enjoying top tier standing in corporate and commercial banking, treasury, trust banking, credit and payment cards, remittances, leasing, and investment banking. It has over 400 branches and more than 500 FASTeller ATMs nationwide, with access to 5,500 BancNet, MegaLink, and ExpressNet ATMs.

LEASING AND FINANCE INC
ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY
400,000.00
Four Hundred Thousand pesos only
Equitable PCI

SHOWN receiving the check donation (from left) are Gawad Kalinga administration and finance head Mike Goco, EPCIBank board member Roberto Romulo, Ateneo de Manila University president Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres SJ, PCI Leasing & Finance Inc president and CEO Manolo C. Arzadon, and Ateneo de Manila University vice president for finance/treasury Jose M. Santos.

# New era in optical media



BUILT to meet broadcast media's need for fast production without sacrificing quality, Sony introduces the XDCam, its newest video equipment that marks a new era in optical media.

The Sony XDCam camcorder offers various innovative features that make full use of the benefits of nonlinear disc media. It uses the best of Sony CCD technology that allows for outstanding picture quality. Add to this XDCam camcorder's 5.8-kg compact, lightweight body and an ergonomic design that allows for the adjustment of the shoulder pad viewfinder positions, Sony's recent system remains true to the past generations of innovation it has always been known for.

Sony was at the forefront of the first generation of audio-video innovation with the introduction of film to video equipment for revolutionized newsgathering. But the tediousness of developing film and converting it to suit the electronic broadcast medium moved Sony to launch yet another generation of innovation-the Betacam Camcorder.

No longer needing two individuals to operate the camera and VTR separately, the Camcorder, married with videotape, afforded one camcorder operator to capture the news "on his shoulders".

With the XDCam system, Sony enters the third generation of innovation that merges the audio-visual world and the world of information technology to transform discrete production into seamlessly integrated, fast and cost-effective high-quality production with the use of Sony professional optical disc products.

The Professional Disc media enables the acquisition of high-resolution video, metadata (including low-resolution video), and audio in a randomly accessible format. With the XDCam system, no longer is there a barrier between tasks in the field and tasks in the studio-a true workflow innovation.

Sony's XDCam has already made its mark as a strong partner in electronic newsgathering operations worldwide. The country's Associated Broadcasting Company (ABC-5) has decided to shift to the full XDCam system-the first in the Southeast Asian region. According to the ABC engineering development and operations director, "We were impressed with the workflow enhancements, picture quality, accessibility, and stability offered by Sony XDCam technology."

Solid Video Corp, the exclusive distributor of the Sony XDCam said, "We are grateful for the trust and confidence that ABC 5 has given us, we are convinced that the Sony XDCam is, without doubt, paving the way to a new era, where the world of AV truly meets the world of IT."

For more information, call Solid Video Corp at 840-4962 to 65.

**NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY**
Region IX Western Mindanao, Zamboanga City
Tel. Nos. (062) 9911828, (062) 9911789 • Fax No. (062) 9911339

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites all interested Trucking / Hauling Operators, to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Trucking / Hauling of 2005 NFA imported/local rice and/or local palay at the following area to wit:

| (Source-Destination) | Estimated Volume (in bags of 50 kg) for Transfer within the Province | Approved Rate per Bag 50 kg (P) per Trip | Approved Budget (P) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Palid Wharf to Taway GID Whse. Ipil | 72,000 | 5.25 | 378,000.00 |
| 2. Gulawa Warehouse to Taway Whse. | 10,000 | 20.00 | 200,000.00 |
| 3. Malangas Wharf to Gulawa Warehouse | 11,000 | 5.50 | 60,500.00 |
| 4. Liloy Lamao Port to Ipil Taway Warehouse | 50,000 | 14.25 | 712,500.00 |
| 5. Lamao Port to Banigan Warehouse, Liloy | 28,000 | 4.75 | 133,000.00 |
| 6. Banigan Warehouse to Taway Warehouse | 10,000 | 14.25 | 142,500.00 |
| 7. Port to Fortune Whse., Zamboanga City | 800,000 | 3.25 | 2,600,000.00 |
| NFA Whse to Port, Zamboanga City | 540,000 | 3.25 | 1,755,000.00 |

The hauling activity (subject to bidding) calls for the supply of cargo/hauling trucks:

Schedule of bidding activities:

| Particulars | Date/Time |
|---|---|
| • Last day of application for registration/renewal to interested bidders who are not NFA accredited labor contractors and/or whose registration had already expired | April 18, 2005 / 8 AM - 4 PM |
| • Issuance of application forms for eligibility and list of eligibility requirements, submission of Letter of Intent & issuance of bid forms | April 4-7; 11-14 & 18-19, 2005 |
| • Pre-Bid Conference | April 21, 2005 / 2:00 PM |
| • Submission and opening of bids | May 4, 2005 / 2:00 PM |

All hauling/trucking operators interested to participate in the bidding must be registered/accredited with NFA. Application forms for eligibility to bid, list of eligibility requirements and bid documents shall be issued upon submission of Letter of Intent to participate and payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 5,000.00 to NFA-BAC, Zamboanga City on the scheduled date and time stated above.

The venue of Pre-Bid Conference and Bidding Proper will be at NFA Conference Room, Gov. Ramos Ave., San Roque, Zamboanga City.

All particulars relative to Bid Security, Performance Security; bidding procedures and evaluation shall be governed by the provisions of Republic Act 9184 and its IRR-A, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and as provided in the Instruction to Bidders.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY/INFORMALITY OF THE BIDS RECEIVED AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) ROLANDO M. MARAVILLA
OIC-Office of ARD, and
Chairman, RBAC

(PDI – April 1 & 8, 2005)

# CHSM extends education to Centex students

THE COLLEGE of the Holy Spirit of Manila (CHSM) and the Center of Excellence in Public Elementary Education (Centex) have formed a partnership to provide high school education to the first batch of graduating students of Centex.

The CHSM-Centex High School will open its doors in June to 71 students from Centex in Tondo, Manila, as well as more than a hundred students from other "feeder schools" and neighboring elementary schools.

Centex is a program of the Ayala Foundation in cooperation with private companies and the Department of Education (DepEd). With two campuses in Tondo and Bauan, Batangas, Centex provides children from disadvantaged families with quality education equal to that of the country's best public and private schools.

The school honored its first batch of graduates in simple ceremonies on March 29 at the Onstage Theater in Greenbelt 1, Makati City.

The Missionary Congregation of the Servants of the Holy Spirit which manages the 92-year-old Catholic college is eager to welcome the Centex students into its community. The CHSM-Centex High School will be a coeducational institution that seeks to challenge young Filipinos' intellect and foster their sense of moral and social duty.

Said CHS Manila president Sr. Eufracia Marcojos: "We will provide these students quality education that addresses the strengthening of both Gospel and Filipino values. We want to help create among our youth, servant leaders, discerning persons equipped with excellent skills, who are nurturers of their environment and proud to be Filipino."

With these shared goals, the College of the Holy Spirit and Ayala Foundation's Centex, believe that their partnership will produce generations of young Filipinos who will help build an empowered Philippine society in the years to come.

## Bits Clips

### Phissam confab

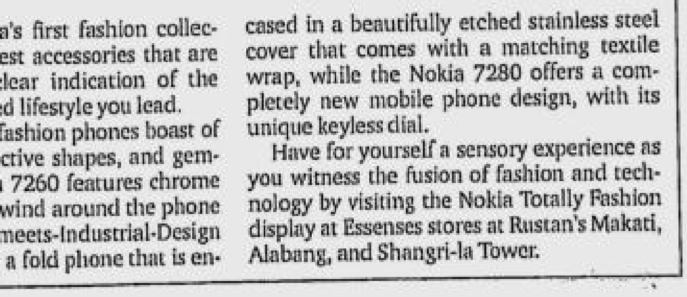
THE PHILIPPINE Society for the Study of the Aging Male Foundation Inc (Phissam), is holding its 4th annual convention on April 1, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Garden Ballroom, Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. Phissam is keen on educating Filipinos about healthy aging and the rewards thereof. For more details, call Dr. Jose Albert C. Reyes III at 723-1075, Dr. Joan Tan-Garcia at 721-1534, or Dr. Joselynna A. Quimpo at 723-1086.

### NESHS grand reunion

CALLING all alumni of the Nueva Ecija South High School Class of 1954-1955. There will be a grand reunion on April 9 at Bong Matias Resort, San Isidro, Nueva Ecija. Registration starts at 8 a.m. For information contact the following: Ed Goduco at 913-9517/422-7948; Juliet Yakap Carreon at 561-0158/375-2417; Aurora Aquino at 704-1744.

## Product FILES

### Fusion of fashion, technology alive



INTENSE glamour with leading edge technology come together under one roof as Nokia unveils its first fashion collection at Rustans' well being store, Essenses.

The mobile phone is our constant companion everyday. It has transformed into being not only a useful tool to connect to the world around us but also serves as an instrument in expressing one's personality or lifestyle. Much like the kind of cosmetic or fragrance one uses on a daily basis, the mobile phone adds a distinct exclamation to any fashion statement.

Two of the biggest names in mobile innovation and beauty fuse to help you create a totally head-turning new look that exudes your chic style, elegance, and distinct personality. Enhance your daily look with luxe cosmetics, select your preferred scent from a wide array of sweet smelling fragrances, and pamper your body with the finest in bath essentials, and no outfit is complete without the perfect fashion accessory. Achieve stunning good looks with Nokia's first fashion collection, a trio of the hottest accessories that are daring and bold; a clear indication of the stylish and sophisticated lifestyle you lead.

Nokia's three latest fashion phones boast of sensuous curves, attractive shapes, and gem-like details. The Nokia 7260 features chrome and steel accents that wind around the phone giving it an Art-Deco-meets-Industrial-Design feel, the Nokia 7270 is a fold phone that is encased in a beautifully etched stainless steel cover that comes with a matching textile wrap, while the Nokia 7280 offers a completely new mobile phone design, with its unique keyless dial.

Have for yourself a sensory experience as you witness the fusion of fashion and technology by visiting the Nokia Totally Fashion display at Essenses stores at Rustan's Makati, Alabang, and Shangri-la Tower.

# Pass the Vat NOW and make a mark in Philippine history

We in the business community and civil society are concerned over the unnecessary delay with regard to the passage of Expanded Value Added Tax measure.

We believe that further procrastination in the passage of this bill could aggravate our country's fiscal problem, and it is literally costing our National Government hundreds of millions of pesos in lost revenues for every single day of delay. This weakens the Government's credit worthiness, which, in turn, affects all of us in the private sector regardless of how strong our respective balance sheets may be.

We are also concerned about these dire consequences that we face should Congress fail to pass this bill:

- A budget slippage this year, which can further adversely affect our credit standing in the international community.
- Loss of confidence among foreign and domestic investors.
- Missed opportunity in terms of generating additional investments that would create more employment.
- A weak peso, which will add to the inflationary pressures that are already in place due to the surge in the price of petroleum products in the world market.

We appeal to the patriotic spirit of our Honorable Senators who are just as concerned in restoring vigor and vitality to the economy of our country. We count on their earnest desire to provide progressive and lasting remedies to our long-standing fiscal problems by finally confronting these with progressive solutions such as the VAT.

We ask for immediate action. We are confident that they have what it takes to make a mark in Philippine history.

**Arthur Young**
President
Semiconductor & Electronics Industries in the Philippines, Inc. (SEIPI)

**Paterno Dizon**
Chairman
Philippine Exporters' Confederation

**Melito Salazar**
President
Financial Executives Institute of thePhilippines

**Ambassador Donald Dee**
President
Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI)

**Philippe Gauthier**
President
Le Club

**Ricardo J. Romulo**
Chairman
Makati Business Club

**Miguel Varela**
President
Philippines, Inc.

**Sergio Ortiz-Luis, Jr.**
President
PHILEXPORT

**Simon Paterno**
President
Management Association of the Philippines

**Francis Chua**
President
Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines Foundation

**Rufino H. Ko Pio**
President
Chinese-Filipino Business Club, Inc.

**Felix Enrico R. Alfiler**
President
Cement Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (CeMAP) Inc.

# Stocks rise on Wall Street rebound, dollar dips

SINGAPORE—Tech-led gains on Wall Street supported Asian markets on Thursday, while the dollar retreated from five-month highs against the yen ahead of key US and Japanese economic data.

European shares were set to start with gains. Financial bookmakers forecast the FTSE 100 share index to open up to 24 points higher to recover all of Wednesday's 18-point slide.

The Nikkei average rose 0.89 percent to 11,668.95.

MSCI's index of non-Japanese Asian share markets rose 0.8 percent by 0610 GMT, driven by a 1.7 percent jump in its technology sub-index.

Semiconductor issues such as Advantest and Samsung Electronics gained after an upbeat earnings report from chip maker Micron Technology Inc. boosted US techs.

Foreign exchange trading was subdued in Asia ahead of the data and as Japanese companies and banks closed their books for the fiscal year-end.

"Friday in particular is shaping up as a volatile day for the currency market," said Mitsuru Sahara, vice president of foreign exchange dealing at UFJ Bank in Tokyo.

"And when you consider the chance of an unexpected rise in inflation or a strong jobs report, the risks to the dollar are most likely on the upside."

A dollar cost about 107.05 yen, down about half a yen from late New York levels and below a five-month high of 107.70 yen scaled on Wednesday.

The euro bought $1.2925, barely changed on the day and safely above a six-week low around $1.2860 plumbed on Monday.

**JAPANESE** using mobile phones walk past a stock quotation board outside a brokerage in Tokyo. The Nikkei average gained 0.48 percent by Thursday mid-morning, led by semiconductor issues like Advantest after an upbeat earnings report from chip maker Micron Technology Inc. boosted US tech shares. REUTERS

US shares were boosted by cooling crude oil prices after a sharp rise in oil stockpiles, although crude prices rose above $54 in Asia on concern about gasoline supplies.

The Dow Jones industrial average had its biggest rally in nearly four months, finishing the day up 1.3 percent.

The Nasdaq gained 1.6 percent and the Philadelphia Stock Exchange semiconductor index climbed more than 2 percent.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index rose 0.8 percent and Singapore's Straits Times Index gained one percent.

Australia's main index closed 0.36 percent higher, while Taiwan's weighted index and South Korea's KOSPI moved 0.8 and 1.1 percent higher, respectively.

Before Friday's US payrolls data, investors will scour the February core personal consumption expenditure (PCE) price index, Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan's preferred inflation gauge, for signs of building price pressures.

The index is part of the monthly personal income and spending report.

Any sign of rising inflation could bolster the case for more aggressive Federal Reserve credit tightening.

The central bank has steadily pushed up its benchmark overnight rate, the fed funds rate, to 2.75 percent from one percent last June.

In Japan, the March tankan survey is expected to show sentiment improved marginally.

US crude oil futures recouped some losses from the previous session in New York, but traders said prices would be under pressure because of a sharp rise in US crude inventories.

In Asia, NYMEX May crude futures were up $0.30, or about half a percent, at $54.29 a barrel on solid volume. *Reuters*

This summer, they'll be home, at last.

BLK 2
HOME SWEET HOME

Youth Build 2005

**From April 2-9, 2005, Youth Build will gather different youth volunteers from various sectors of society to build 500 decent, durable and affordable houses for less fortunate families living in Baseco, Port Area, Manila.**

**Join Youth Build 2005 by volunteering or making a donation to build houses. For more information, please call 897-3069, email us at hfhphil@yahoo.com or visit us at www.habitat.org.ph. You may also donate directly to BPI C/A # 2421-0014-67.**

**Youth Build is a year-round program of Habitat for Humanity Philippines. Youth Build encourages young people to participate and be involved in its mission of eradicating poverty housing.**

**Habitat for Humanity Philippines Inc. is a non-profit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry dedicated to the mission of eliminating poverty housing in the Philippines.**

Habitat for Humanity Philippines
Today's Builders, Tomorrow's Leaders.

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# More fallout from Morgan shake-up

NEW YORK—There was more fallout from Morgan Stanley's management shakeup Wednesday, as the investment bank's global head of institutional equity trading resigned, joining a number of other high-ranking executives who have walked out.

A company spokeswoman confirmed the departure of Guru Ramakrishnan. His decision to leave came a day after the resignations of his boss, John P. Havens, the head of the Institutional Equity Division, and Vikram S. Pandit, president and chief operating officer of its Institutional Securities Group.

The wave of exits follows chief executive Philip Purcell's decision to replace president Stephan Newhouse with two co-presidents, Morgan Stanley veterans Stephen Crawford and Zoe Cruz.

Meanwhile, the firm's former chairman and former president are calling for the ouster of Purcell himself, saying the shakeup he engineered was not in the best interest of the company.

Perhaps to help reassure Wall Street, the company promoted one of its foremost investment bankers, Joseph Perella, to vice chairman; he will report directly to Purcell. Perella, a highly regarded dealmaker, most recently served as chairman of Morgan Stanley's Institutional Securities Group.

He's also been a leading member of a small group of senior bankers that focused on the firm's most high profile transactions. The details of his new role were not clear.

In a statement Tuesday, Morgan Stanley said Crawford and Cruz would help provide new oversight of the company's institutional securities and investment management operations.

However, a group of former executives and major shareholders, led by former chairman Parker Gilbert and former president Robert Scott, warned that the restructuring could result in the loss of other executives.

The group also released a letter, dated March 3, sent to the current Morgan Stanley board calling for Purcell's departure. The group blamed Purcell for the company's lagging stock price and financial performance.

"We believe that the overriding cause of the firm's poor performance is a failure of leadership by Philip Purcell as the firm's CEO," the March 3 letter said. *AP*

# India economy slowed in Q4

NEW DELHI—India's annual economic growth slowed to 6.2 percent in the October-December quarter of 2004, a shade higher than forecast, as a decline in farm output offset strong performances in manufacturing and services.

The expansion in gross domestic product was marginally higher than the median forecast of 6.1 percent growth in a Reuters poll but was the slowest rate since a 5.3 percent rise in April-June quarter of 2003.

For details of the data released on Thursday by the Central Statistics Office double-click on.

Analysts said the numbers were broadly in line with their expectations, although weakness in farming was more pronounced than some anticipated.

"It is good news ... and we will achieve the (government's estimate of) 6.9 percent for the year," said Saumitra Chaudhuri, economic adviser with credit rating agency ICRA.

"The last quarter of the fiscal year, growth should be around 7.0 percent. Growth is very much intact but the decline in the farm sector is above our estimate of 0.8 percent."

Last July's erratic monsoon has acted as a drag on Asia's fourth-biggest economy, underscoring the country's dependence on agriculture which provides a living for more than 600 million Indians.

India's GDP number lagged its Asian rival China, whose economy grew 9.5 percent over the same period, and is the latest in a string of figures which point to slowing growth. *Reuters*

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
BUREAU OF LABOR RELATIONS
MANILA

## NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE CANCELLATION OF UNION REGISTRATION

NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to Rule XV of the Rules Implementing Book V of the Labor Code, as amended by DOLE Department Order No. 40, s. 2003, the Bureau of Labor Relations (BLR) has instituted an administrative process for cancellation of registration of the following federations for their failure to submit reports for five (5) consecutive years despite two (2) notices for compliance as required under Rule V, Section 1:

| Federation | Last Reported Address |
|---|---|
| Association of Independent Unions of the Philippines-AIU | 15 Sampaloc St., Lower Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila |
| Bagong Pilipino Workers Coalition-BPWC | Flores Bldg., 684 Beaterio St., Intramuros, Manila |
| Democratic and Independent Workers Union-DIWA | APCO Enterprises, YMCA Bldg., Iznart St., Iloilo City |
| Grand Labor Union-GLU | 19 Nightingale St., Francis Vill., Subd., Mambugan, Antipolo City |
| Labor Alliance of Workers-LAW | 182 Sanciangco St., Cebu City |
| Labor Congress of the Philippines-LCP | 3rd Floor, Eusebio Bldg., Gen. Hizon Avenue, San Fernando, Pampanga |
| Lakas ng Nagkakaisang Manggagawa-LNM | Paglaum Sports Complex, Libertad St., Bacolod City |
| Mindanao Congress of Labor-MCL | 384 Watusi St., Km. 5, Buhangin, Davao City |
| Mindanao Federatrion of Labor-MINDFLU | Poblacion, Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat |
| M/V concerned Seamen of the Philippines-MV CSP | Unit F, Limpio Bldg., 273 Moriones St., Tondo, Manila |
| Patnubay ng Unyong Makabayan-PATNUBAY | Lot 2, Block 2, BLISS, Balintawak, Quezon City |
| Philippine Labor Federation-PLF | PLF Bldg., Rafael Palma St., Cebu City |
| Samahan ng Manggagawang Pilipino-SMP | 236 J. Romualdez St., Mandaluyong City |
| Sandigan ng Manggagawang Pilipino-SANDIGAN | 119 Sydney St., Pasig Green Park Village, Manggahan, Pasig City |
| Sarangani Marine & General Workers Union-SAMAGEWU | Leonor Bldg., Ireneo Santiago Blvd., General Santos City |

Where no response is received by the Bureau within thirty (30) days from date of this publication, or where the Bureau has verified the dissolution of concerned federations, it shall order the cancellation of registration of said federation and cause their de-listing from the roster of legitimate labor organizations.

Said federations are requested to coordinate this matter with Amorsolo Agilbut of the Bureau's Workers' Organization Administration and Records Division, at tel. nos. 527-2537 / 527-2459.

For compliance of all concerned.

28 March 2005.

(Sgd.) **REBECCA C. CHATO**
Officer-in-Charge

(PDI – April 1, 2005)

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## THE COUNTRY COORDINATING MECHANISM (CCM) FOR THE PHILIPPINE GLOBAL FUND PROJECTS

## CALL FOR CONCEPT PROPOSALS FOR THE CONTROL AND PREVENTION OF HIV / AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA

All public and private organizations engaged in or are interested in healthcare initiatives are invited to submit concept proposals on the prevention, treatment, and control of HIV / AIDS, Tuberculosis or Malaria.

Proposals must be consistent with the Global Fund criteria call for proposals for the fifth round (please refer to website: http//www.theglobalfund.org/en/apply/call5/), the Department of Health National Objectives for Health and in keeping with the Millennium Development Goals.

Organizations with a proven record on the treatment of the above diseases and those with experience working with DOH and its local and international partners and with co-funding are preferred. Proposals consistent with all of the above will be incorporated in the country application to be submitted to the Global Fund by the CCM.

Submission Requirements: Concept Proposal: (not more than 500 words)
- Background / Rationale
- Methodology
- Expected Output/Outcome/Impact
- Sustainability

Brief Organization profile
Highlights of previous and/or ongoing projects.

Deadline for submission is on April 15, 2005.
Decision of the CCM would be final and selected groups would be informed after 25 April 2005.

Submit hard copy of Concept Proposal to:
The Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) Secretariat
Infectious Disease Office
National Center for Disease Prevention & Control
Department of Health
San Lazaro Compound, Manila

Department of Health
San Lazaro Compound
Manila

Or Email to: concept_proposal@yahoo.com cc: agnesdelr@yahoo.com
telefax: 63.2.711.6808

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AUCTION

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*On the instructions of William Golangco Construction Corporation*

**2-DAY SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION**

At.: 10 Calle Industria, Libis, Quezon City
On: Tuesday 5th & Wednesday 6th April 2005 - 10:30am

CRANES & HANDLING EQUIPMENT; CONCRETE EQUIPMENT; SERVICE VEHICLES; TOOLS; CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, ETC.

In over 1000 lots including: -

CRANES & HANDLING EQUIPMENT - P&H Omega 100 22T cap. S/N 53792 R.T. Hydraulic Crane; LINDEN L5102, (2) LINDEN L5052 Climbing Tower Cranes; KROLL K100 Climbing Tower Crane; (4) TUMAC Liftmaster MKII 1000 kgs (12 person) cap. Passenger Elevators; HYUNDAI HSL-600 Skid Steer Loader; CATERPILLAR 3T cap. Forklift; (2) Mini Dump Trucks; (4) WINGET Dumpers
CONCRETE EQUIPMENT - PUTZMEISTER BSA 1406-EMD S/N 21950104554 Diesel Concrete Pump; (5) INTERNATIONAL Paymaster 5000 w/ Detroit 6L-71-N Diesel Engine; (2) INTERNATIONAL Paymaster 5000 w/ Cummins PT 240 Diesel Engine Transit Mixers 7.5cu. m. Drum Cap.; Concrete Pouring Pipe; (5) Single Bag Mixers
SERVICE VEHICLES - ISUZU Intercooler L280 10 Wheeler Dropside Truck; ISUZU 6 Wheeler Dropside Trucks; Trailer Mounted Water Tanks
TOOLS & EQUIPMENT - (4) FORD/GM Generators (45 to 156KVA); Asstd. Trailer Mounted Air Compressors; Submersible/Engine Driven Pumps; Chain Blocks; Hook Blocks; Oxy/Acetylene Sets; Rebar Cutters; Concrete Cutters; Mobile Lubricant Dispensers; Tamping Rammers; Bottle/Mechanical Jacks; Battery Chargers; Asstd. Welders; Blowers; Power Trowels; Asstd. Dry Type Step-up Transformers; High Pressure Washers; A Large Qty. of Hand/Power Tools; Wire Rope; Asstd. Surveying Equipment, Material/Laboratory Testing Instruments, etc.
CONSUMABLES - Electric Cable; Fasteners; Toilet Bowls; Urinals; Bath Tubs; Asstd. Paints/Chemicals; PVC, Copper, Stainless Steel Pipes; Channeling; Angle Bar; Asstd. U-Beam; Strainers; Couplings; Connectors; Wyes; Tees; Elbows; Asstd. Valves; Window Glass; Door Jambs/Frames; Insulation; Asstd. Valves; Chicken Wire; Electric Light Fittings; Rubber Matting; Ceramic/Marble Tiles; Plywood Sheet; Drainage Systems; Gabions & Mattress Materials
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On View: Saturday 2nd & Monday, 4th April 2005 - 9:00am to 5:00pm and mornings of sale days
Refundable Deposit: Php20,000 (upon registration)
Please bring valid ID to be presented during registration

*PLEASE NOTE: NO SLIPPERS/SANDALS, NO SLEEVELESS SHIRTS, NO SHORTS, NO SMOKING, NO VIDEO/CAMERA, NO CHILDREN - WILL BE ALLOWED ON THE AUCTION PREMISES*
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Department of Finance
**BUREAU OF CUSTOMS**
Collection District II - B
**MANILA INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER PORT**

March 30, 2005

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2601 to 2610 of the TCCP, as amended, in relation to CMO 5-2003 dated March 17, 2003, and CMO 18-2003 dated 25 July 2003, there will be a Public Auction Sale through SEALED BIDDING, to be conducted by this Port on **April 05, 2005, at 2:30 P.M.**, to be held at the 2nd Floor, MICP Building, North Harbor, Isla Puting Bato, Tondo, Manila, the herein described articles in lot. Said articles shall be available for viewing on **April 04, 2005**. In the event of a failed bidding, the second auction shall be conducted on the third business day following the first bidding.

| | |
|---|---|
| Lot No. 055-03 JM CATTLE FARM<br>S.I. No. 03-051<br>6th Advertisement<br>'As Is Where Is'<br>Floor Price: Php329,472.00 | 480 bags, 50 kgs./bag Thailand Rice Well-Milled Dragon Brand<br>Note: Only duly accredited NFA Rice Traders will be allowed to participate.<br>Location: ICTSI CY, Contr. No. GESU-2244886 |
| Lot No. 057-03 PR SARISARI STORE<br>S.I. 03-136<br>6th Advertisement<br>'As Is Where Is'<br>Floor Price: Php137,472.00 | 200 Bags. 50 kgs./bag Thai Premium White Rice (Platinum Brand)<br>Note: To be sold pursuant to Section 2607 of the TCCP, as amended. Proceeds to be held in trust.<br>Location: Warehouse 1, POM. |
| Lot No. 018-04 METAFEED INDUSTRIES<br>R.A. 7651<br>3rd Advertisement<br>'As Is Where Is'<br>'Proceeds Held In Trust'<br>Floor Price: Php3,320,590.76 | 600 sacks, 50 kgs./sack Pakistan Wheat<br>4,200 sacks, 50 kgs./sack Pakistan Rice<br>Location: ICTSI CY, Contr. Nos. TEXU-2469608, FBLU-3107700, KMSU-2106742, TTNU-2381326, YMLU-2746097, YMLU-2782535, YMLU-2795912, YMLU-2756027, YMLU-2931990 & WFHU-1198327. |
| Lot No. 012-05 DARALA TRADING<br>A.P. No. 05-007<br>3rd Advertisement<br>'As Is Where Is'<br>Floor Price: Php108,752.00 | 971 boxes, 70 pcs./box Apples<br>Note: Aside from the bid price the winning bidder will shoulder the electrical charges due to ICTSI.<br>Location: ICTSI CY, Contr. No. OOLU-6402508 |

Basic Guidelines:
1. File the duly accomplished Registration Form (name, address, TIN and other relevant circumstances to be indicated).
2. Php2,000.00 Registration Fee (Non-Refundable).
3. Php20,000.00 Cash Bond (Refundable).
4. Submission to the ACDD Proof of Qualification involving regulated commodities, such as rice and animal feeds (NFA and Feed Millers' Licenses).
5. The highest bidder shall be required to pay 50% of the bid price either in cash and/or Manager's Check immediately and the balance of 50% shall be paid within the next business day.
6. After the second failed bidding, a particular lot may be offered to all qualified bidders for negotiated sale, subject to compliance of the requirements under Section IV-J of CMO 5-2003.
7. Payment by Cashier's/Manager's Checks to the BOC/MICP shall bear the following:
   a. Pay to the order of Land Bank of the Philippines - BOC MICP E.O.
   b. For credit of the Bureau of Customs.
   c. For the account of:

______________________
Bidder

For further details, please contact Mr. Isidro A. Pre, Chief, Auction & Cargo Disposal Division, MICP, Tel. No. 247-09-77.

(Sgd.) Atty. **FELIPE A. BARTOLOME, CESO V**
District Collector of Customs

(PDI – April 1, 2005)

---

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National Power Corporation

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

NPC-TGPP-2005-01

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-Tiwi Geothermal Power Plant of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

| SCHEDULE | ITEM/DESCRIPTION | PR NUMBER | APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT |
|---|---|---|---|
| DATE OF BIDDING: APRIL 20, 2005; 2:00 PM | | | |
| 1A1 | J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR & MATLS INCLUDING CONSUMABLES IN THE FABRICATION OF 22 PCS. LOCAL INSTRUMENT BOX & 4 PRESSURE SWITCH BOX | 3TPM-05-003 | P 2,500,000.00 |
| 1A2 | J.O.-SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATLS AND CONSUMABLES IN THE REPLACEMENT OF METERING/IMPULSE LINE OF UNITS 1, 2, 5 & 6 | 3TPM-05-004 | P 4,500,000.00 |

NOTE : A Pre-Bidding Conference will be held at the Bidding Room on April 6, 2005 at 2:00 PM

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Procurement Unit, Plant B of Tiwi Geothermal Power Plant at Tiwi, Albay upon payment of non-refundable fee of PHP 1,000.00 per schedule starting on April 5, 2005. Issuance of eligibility and bid documents is from 8:30 to 4:30 PM until April 18, 2005 only.

Bids will be received at the assigned Bidding Room, Admin Bldg., Pulsan, Tiwi, Albay on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders. Certificate of Registrations issued by other NPC Offices will be honored provided that the Certification is still valid. Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of "Republic Act 9184".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit – One Percent (1%), Surety Bond - Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand with 120 days validity period from the date of opening of bids issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee
TGPP

(PDI – April 1, 2005)

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# *Imported rice arrives in Subic Port*

SOME 122,500 bags or 6,125 metric tons of rice imported by the National Food Authority from Vietnam were unloaded at the Subic Free Port in Zambales recently.

The volume is part of the 760,000 MT of rice the country is importing from Vietnam this year.

NFA Region 3 director Nicolas Crisostomo said that 50,000 bags of the new rice arrival is allocated for Region 2 while the remaining 72,500 bags will be distributed in Region 3.

Crisostomo said the imported rice will cover the region's food security requirements this year since production will be unfavorable due to the possible effects of El Niño in palay crops.

For more information on NFA rice importation and other concerns, the public may send their text messages via the Text NFA Program through mobile number 0917-6210927.

---

**NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY**
Region IX Western Mindanao, Zamboanga City
Tel. Nos. (062) 9911828 (062) 9911789 • Fax No. (062) 9911339

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites all interested Cargo Handling Operators, to apply for eligibility and to bid for the discharging of 2005 NFA imported rice on board foreign/local vessels at the following area/port to wit

| (Province/Port) | Estimated Volume (in bags of 50 kg) | Approved Rate per Bag 50 kg (P) | Approved Budget (P) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Zambo City Port (imported rice) | 800,000 | 7.24 | 5,792,000.00 |
| 2. Zambo City Port (domestic shipment) | 540,000 | 3.982 | 2,150,280.00 |
| 3. Malangas Wharf | 11,000 | 3.00 | 33,000.00 |

The cargo handling activity (subject to bidding) calls for the supply of labor, cargo handling logistics including supervision in the complete execution of the discharging operations.

Schedule of bidding activities

| Particulars | Date/Time |
|---|---|
| • Last day of application for registration/renewal to interested bidders who are not NFA accredited labor contractors and/or whose registration had already expired | April 18, 2005 / 8 AM - 4 PM |
| • Issuance of application forms for eligibility and list of eligibility requirements, submission of Letter of Intent & issuance of bid forms | April 4-7; 11-14 & 18-19, 2005 |
| • Pre-Bid Conference | April 25, 2005 / 2:00 PM |
| • Submission and opening of bids | May 9, 2005 / 2:00 PM |

All cargo handling operators interested to participate in the bidding must be registered/accredited with NFA. Application forms for eligibility to bid, list of eligibility requirements and bid documents shall be issued upon submission of Letter of Intent to participate and payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 5,000.00 to NFA-BAC, Zamboanga City on the scheduled date and time stated above.

The venue of Pre-Bid Conference and Bidding Proper will be at NFA Conference Room, Gov. Ramos Ave., San Roque, Zamboanga City.

All particulars relative to Bid Security, Performance Security; bidding procedures and evaluation shall be governed by the provisions of Republic Act 9184 and its IRR-A, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and as provided in the Instruction to Bidders.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY/INFORMALITY OF THE BIDS RECEIVED AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) **ROLANDO M. MARAVILLA**
OIC-Office of ARD, and
Chairman, RBAC

(PDI – April 1 & 8, 2005)

B14

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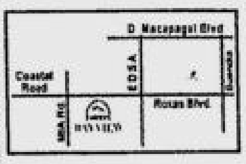

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Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF THE (A) ELECTRICITY PURCHASE AGREEMENT AND (B) EXTENDED ELECTRICITY PURCHASE AGREEMENT (EPA) ENTERED INTO BY AND BETWEEN ANGELES ELECTRIC CORPORATION (AEC) AND ANGELES POWER, INC. (API), WITH PRAYER FOR PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY

ERC Case No. 2005-010 RC

ANGELES ELECTRIC CORPORATION (AEC),
Applicant

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given of the filing on January 25, 2005 by applicant Angeles Electric Corporation (AEC) of an application for approval of the: a) renewal of the Electricity Purchase Agreement, and b) extension of the Electricity Purchase Agreement, it entered into with Angeles Power, Inc. (API) with prayer for provision authority docketed as ERC Case No. 2005-010 RC.

The Commission has set the application for hearing on April 22, 2005 at nine o'clock in the morning (9:00 AM) at the AEC Main Office, Don Juan D. Nepomuceno Avenue corner Teresa Avenue, Nepomart Complex, Angeles City, Pampanga.

All interested parties who may wish to comment on or oppose the said application should file their comments and/or oppositions on or before the date of hearing. Such parties who may wish to have the details of the application and who shall have manifested to the Commission their desire and intention to participate actively in the proceedings, may request that before the date of hearing, they be furnished with copies of the application by the applicant, which is hereby directed to furnish the parties making such request with copies of the application and attachments. Likewise, any such interested party may examine the application and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the usual office hours.

WITNESS the Honorable RODOLFO B. ALBANO, JR., Chairman and the Honorables OLIVER B. BUTALID, JESUS N. ALCORDO, RAUF A. TAN and ALEJANDRO Z. BARIN, Commissioners, Energy Regulatory Commission, this day of March 2005.

(Sgd.) FRUCTUOSO C. LAGUNZAD, JR.
Executive Director III

(PDI - March 24 & April 1, 2005)

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### NOTICE OF LOSS

Atlas Consol. Mining Dev. Corp. Stock Cert #A0137349, A0166261, A0198913, A0198913, A0238646 under Anthony & Elizabeth Reedyk were declared lost w/ total 498 shares. If no contest received w/ in 1 yr. new cert. will be issued. PDI–April 1,8,15, 2005

NOTICE ISA HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE FIRST FARMERS HOLDINGS CORPORATION (FFHC), STOCK CERTIFICATE NO. 743 COVERING 12,093 SAHRES OF MANUEL DEL ROSARIO, SR. AND STOCK CERTIFICATE NO. 1739 COVERING 119,572 SHARES OF LETICIA DEL ROSARIO WERE DECLARED LOST.

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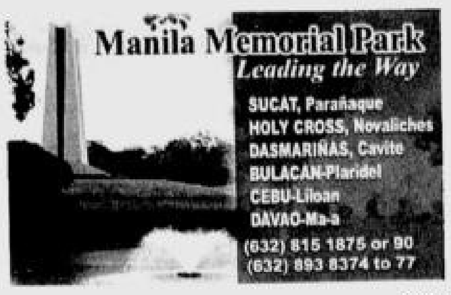
## *Real estate seminars*

THE Pareb-Parañaque-Las Piñas Alabang Realtors Board (Plareb), one of the largest member constituent boards of the Philippine Association of Realtors Board, Inc. will conduct its 43rd Comprehensive Real Estate Seminar and Review for Real Estate Broker's Examination to be held on May 29.

The seminar and review will run from May 2 to May 16 (6 to 9 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays) at Max's Restaurant, Sucat Road, Parañaque City. Realtor Camila Mate, seminar directress, said the topics covered are in accordance with the recommendations of BTRCP for passing the government licensure examination.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# OBITUARIES

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*2 Corinthians 5:8*

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*"I wait eagerly for the Lord's help and His work I trust.
I wait for the Lord more eagerly than sentries wait for the dawn-
than sentries wait for the dawn" (Psalm 130)*

## ELISA YLAGAN ROCAMORA

*(July 16, 1919 – March 29, 2005)
Peacefully joined our Lord on March 29, 2005
at the age of 86*

Her loving husband **JOSE, SR.** (†); children **JOSE, JR., ROGELIO, VIVIAN, RAMON** and **MANUEL**; sister **SERAFINA**; children-in-law, grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapel, G. Araneta Avenue, Q.C.

Interment will be on April 3, 2005 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Arlington Memorial Chapels.

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This project is jointly undertaken by BGT Infra & Development Corporation and The Cathedral of St. Mary and St. John.

For more inquiries call 723-7651 or 723-6494.

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## Eduardo Larcina Malabanan

*God saw you getting tired so He put His arms around you and whispered, "Come with Me." With tearful eyes we watched you suffer and saw you fade away. Although we loved you dearly, we could not make you stay.*

*A golden heart stopped beating, working hands were put to rest. God broke our hearts to prove to us, He only takes the best.*

Born July 7, 1932, passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 12, 2005 in the home he shared with his beloved wife, **Sungsook Malabanan**. His children **Eduardo Jr.** and **Shirly**, along with grandsons **Brian** and **Kris**, were there to share the last few weeks of his life.

He leaves behind **Benny**, his brother and constant companion, as well as his sister, **Glory** and former congressman **Pablo Ocampo**. His memory as the **"Uncle Eddie"** will live on in his many nieces and nephews, named as follows:

**Anne Marie, Sandy, Jeffrey, Yvette, Laurrâine, Grace, Ricky, Mary Ann, Cynthia, Angelica.**

Family and friends are invited to attend a liturgy to celebrate his life on Sunday, April 3, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. at G/F, Ritz Towers, 6745 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

---

*WE, THE FAMILY OF THE LATE*

## SIUHUA KOH YU

**August 31, 1963 – March 28, 2005**

wish to convey our sincere thanks
for your kind expression of sympathy
in our recent great sorrow.

Our family deeply appreciates
all those who sent flowers and sympathy cards,
donated personal services, called with the kindest
words, and thought of us those days.

*LOVE ALL WHOM YOU HOLD DEAR
PRECIOUS IS THE TIME YOU SHARE
DO NOT WAIT FOR TOMORROW
FOR TOMORROW MAY NOT BE...*

---

**"We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death.
He will raise us to life with Jesus.
He will present us, along with you, to God."**
*2 Corinthians 4:14*

# DOE, DOJ revive oil monitoring task force

**By Abigail L. Ho**

TO ENSURE fair competition in the downstream oil industry, the Department of Justice and the Department of Energy will reconvene a joint task force for a review of its powers and functions.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla and Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales have agreed to again convene the DOJ-DOE Task Force, following the suggestion of Consumer and Oil Price Watch chair Raul Concepcion.

"The task force has been in place for the past seven years, and we would like to review how it has undertaken its functions and how it can be improved," Lotilla yesterday said in a statement.

Under Section 14 of RA 8479 or the Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Act of 1998, the DOJ-DOE Task Force will serve as an overseer of the downstream oil sector, having the right to investigate any seemingly unreasonable rise in the prices of petroleum products.

It can also take action on complaints filed by any entity against oil industry players who may be engaging in unfair market practices. Action will be taken after a thorough investigation.

A memorandum of agreement between the DOJ and the DOE signed in March 1998 formally created the task force, as mandated by the Oil Deregulation Law.

Apart from making sure that the downstream oil market would be totally competitive, the DOJ-DOE Task Force would see to the adequate and continuous supply of environmentally clean and high quality petroleum products at reasonable prices.

During the seven years of its existence, the DOJ-DOE Task Force had hardly met.

With oil prices rising every week this month, Concepcion called on the DOE and the DOJ to explore the merits of reconvening the task force.

While revisiting its powers and functions, Lotilla said, the task force could also make suggestions to the five-person panel currently reviewing the Oil Deregulation Law.

Malacañang has ordered a review of the Oil Deregulation Law to determine whether or not there was a need to amend the current law.

The independent review is now being conducted by Carlos Alindada, SGV and Co. chair and former commissioner of the Energy Regulatory Commission, Peter Lee Yu, dean of the University of Asia and the Pacific College of Economics, Alberto Suansing, secretary general of the Confederation of Land Transportation Organization of the Philippines, Mercedditas Garcia, president of the Petroleum Dealers Association of the Philippines, and Joey Leviste, former director of the defunct Petroleum Board.

Alindada heads the panel.

The review panel has 90 days to conduct a series of consultations with various industry stakeholders to enable them to come up with recommendations on how the existing law could be improved.

The recommendations would be submitted to the Department of Energy.

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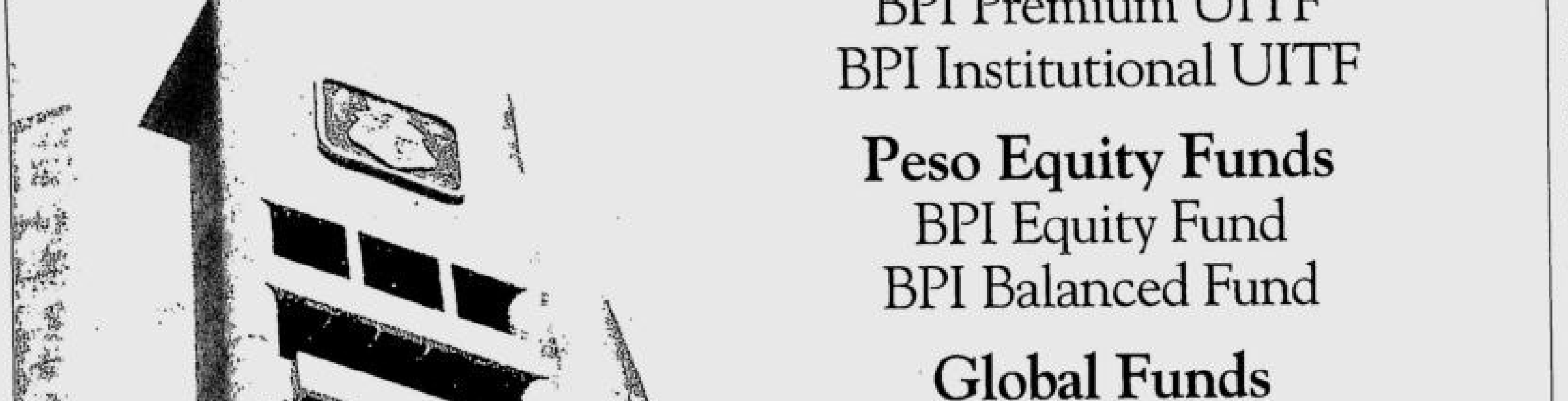

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# NTC says Q1 collections almost hit ₱1B

**By Clarissa S. Batino**

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission yesterday claimed that it had already collected almost a billion pesos in fees and charges in the first quarter.

The regulator got a boost in February when it received a one-time gain of P540 million from Pilipino Telephone Corp. for unpaid regulatory fees and penalties.

In January, the NTC collected about P400 million in spectrum users fee from telco firms. The fee is for the use of the airwaves.

Ronald Solis, NTC chair, said the agency this year was tasked by the government to raise P1.49 billion—almost the same level as its 2004 collection.

"We already collected almost P1 billion," said the NTC chief. "We are sure to meet our target."

With the huge collection, Solis said a plan to increase the rate of fees and charges was put on hold.

The NTC and Piltel earlier reached a compromise where the commission agreed to reduce an earlier assessment of P1.3 billion.

The NTC reduced its assessment after the justice department issued an opinion cautioning the agency against the "confiscatory nature" of its surcharges and penalties.

Of the P1.3 billion in fees earlier assessed by the NTC, P24 million was for 2004. About P500 million comprise the penalties and surcharges.

The NTC was planning to increase fees and charges by 20 percent starting this year, but its regulated firms opposed the move, saying it was not the commission's job to raise revenue for the government.

The commission said it would like to raise more revenue and to retain a portion of its earnings so it could finance a five-year computerization project called eNTC, which would cost about P600 million.

Solis said the NTC would ask Congress to allow the regulator to retain half of about P800 million in regulatory fees it collect every September of each year.

The commission said aside from the computerization project, it would also like to beef up its research and legal departments.

Compared to its counterparts in the Souteast Asia region, Solis said the NTC's research and legal teams, while very capable, were also very small.

# Ginebra sets aside ₱2B to boost distillery

**By Elizabeth L.Sanchez**

GINEBRA San Miguel Inc. (GSMI), the hard liquor arm of Southeast Asia's food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp., is setting aside P2 billion this year, primarily for the upgrade of its distilleries.

In a report to the Securities and Exchange Commission, GSMI said over P1.5 billion would go to the upgrade and repair of the existing facilities, and the expansion of alcohol production capacity. The remaining P439 million would be used for the continued upgrading and repair of bottling plants.

Last year, GSMI spent P369 million for capital expenditures, the bulk of which went to operations improvement and the repair of bottling plants.

To fast-track entry into regional markets, GSMI entered into a share-purchase agreement with the Thai Life Group of Companies for the purchase of 40 percent in CNT Wine and Liquor Co. Ltd.

CNT is licensed to manufacture alcohol and distribute brandy, wine and distilled spirits products both for domestic and export markets. It is currently constructing a production facility that is expected to be completed in 2006.

GSMI earlier said net income rose 2 percent to P1.68 billion last year as volume of liquor sold also expanded 8 percent.

For the fourth quarter, operating income grew 13 percent to P915 million as the company increased selling and marketing efforts.

For the full year, GSMI's operating income grew 9 percent to P2.96 billion.

### DO PEOPLE BUY WHAT THEY SEE?

# LRT, MRT: New war zone for advertising

**By Tina Arceo-Dumlao**

THE ADVERTISING battlegrounds are no longer confined to the traditional radio, television and print media.

The sites have multiplied to include billboards along major thoroughfares, buses plying major routes, and the much-used MRT and LRT lines.

According to the "Profiling and Ad Awarenes Study Among MRT and LRT Riders" commissioned by Trackworks, which takes care of advertising along the lines, the majority of the riders recall advertising in trains and train stations, and take the trouble of actually reading them.

The MRT runs from North Ave. to Taft Ave., LRT1 from Caloocan to Taft Ave. and LRT 2 from Santolan in Pasig to Legarda in Manila.

The survey results were based on 695 interviews of MRT riders, 544 LRT1 riders and 343 RT 2 riders.

The train riders were described as in their early to mid-20s, slightly younger for LRT 2 riders. Most of the MRT and LRT 1 riders are single, working and have some college education.

The MRT riders, however, had the highest share of working people and have higher educational attainment. LRT2 riders, on the other hand, had the lowest share of college graduates since almost half of the riders are students.

Most of the riders take the jeepney to bring them to the train stations, and they use the trains to commune to work or school and back. They take the trains because of the speed and comfort, although some complain of overcrowding.

They often go to fast food restaurants and most do their shopping in department stores and supermarkets.

Among the brands that immediately come to the riders' minds are Globe, Smart, LG, Sun Cellular, Citibank, Clusivol, Sunsilk, Samsung, Jollibee, Palmolive, PLDT, Rejoice, Colgate, Cebu Pacific and Levi's.

Brands shown inside the train stations were more readily recalled, particularly Clusivol, Jollibee and Sun Cellular, since most

LRT/ B2-3

# *Cosmetic surgery market expands to the young*

**By Margie Quimpo-Espino**

IT'S NOT just the mature who go for cosmetic surgeries. The market is getting younger.

Joey Santos, managing director of the Belo Medical Group, says their fastest growing market today is the 0 to 19-year-old segment, which now accounts for about 22 to 27 percent of their pie. The bulk of this market is the 14-19 years olds.

The procedures demanded by the young are nose lifts and breast augmentation.

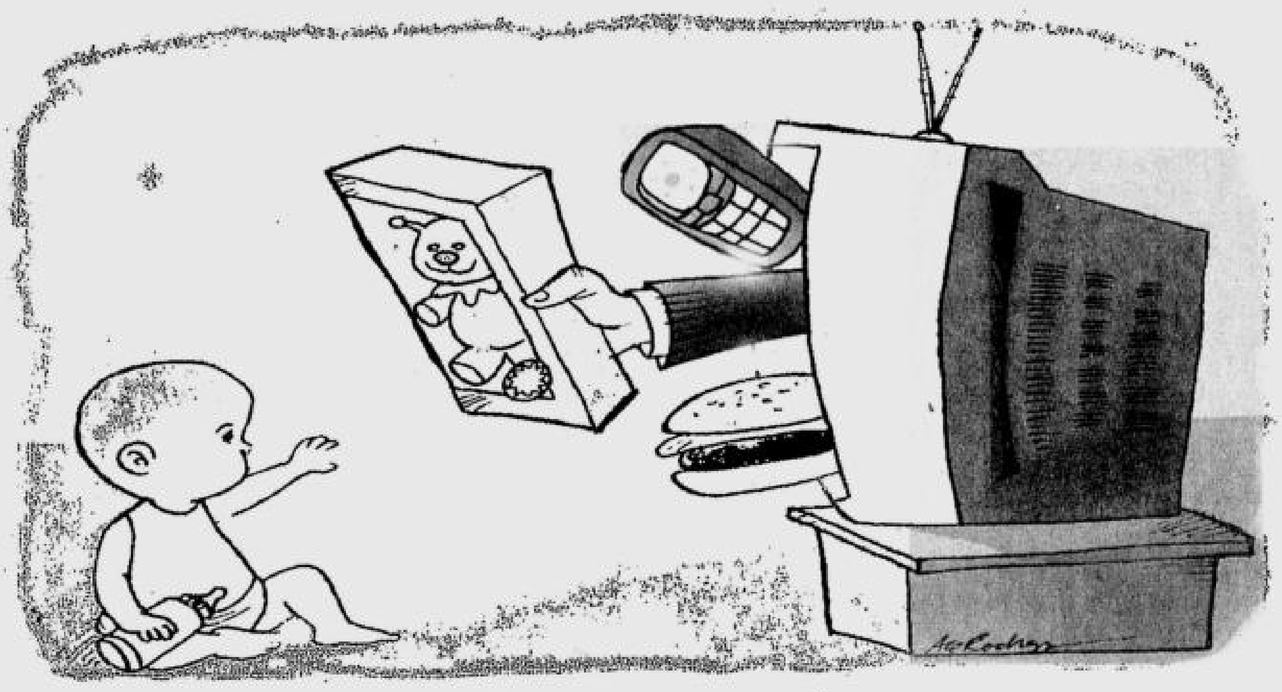
Dr. Vicki Belo, head of the Belo group, says "People today are practical. It is not a question fo self-esteem. Before, my patients were women whose husbands left them and they want to look better. The young now want to have bigger breasts so they don't have to wear pads or push-up bras. It's not a moral choice to them."

Belo, known as the doctor of the stars, says breast augmentation is popular "because Filipinos are naturally flat [chested]."

However Belo says she takes time to talk to the patients before agreeing to do the procedure.

"I'm a BS Psychology gradu-

COSMETIC/ B2-3



# Have ethics when you sell goods to kids

**By Karen V. De Asis**
*Contributor*

WORLDWIDE, children 12 years and below in urbanized and emerging countries are key to billions of dollars of spending power, either as buyers or influencers in purchase transactions.

James McNeal, professor of marketing at Texas A & M University revealed, "spending on advertising targeted at children has been growing at 15 to 20 percent for the past six or seven years simply because children's spending power has been growing at a similar rate."

McNeal estimated $24 billion in direct spending each year while kids influenced an additional $500 billion in family purchases. Data gathered in 2002, by the US Center for Service In the Public Interest, show some $15 billion was spent in the US alone on marketing communications directed at children. This included TV and print ads, product placements, packaging design, sales promotions, public relations and in-school marketing.

Other than its present economic potential, the kids market is deemed a future, sustainable market where brand loyalties can be established at an early age. Debbie Solomon, chair of the Advertising Research Foundation's Youth Research Council revealed, "Kids are more involved today in a lot of family purchase decisions. Their influence has always been primary in food purchases, but now it extends to things like cars, vacations, electronics. And every year, you see new categories, new products, new advertising specifically targeted in this market." In the local market, these industries include cellular phones, financial services, airlines and travel.

Marketers attribute this growing influence of children towards adult and family spending to pester power, also known as psycho-terrorism to some, referring largely to the kids' persuasive capability directed at adults and family to spend money on heavily advertised products and services.

Juliet B. Sohor, best selling author of the Overworked American and Born To Buy, stated, "Sophisticated advertising strategies convince kids that products are necessary to their social survival. Ads affect not just what they want to buy, but who they think they are and how they feel about themselves."

Recently, marketing to kids 12 and under, has become the subject of serious debate as research reveal:

1. Kids at 12 are just beginning to make informed choices; while those under 12 are impressionable and naive, thus, making them easy targets for advertising persuasion. A Harris study made in February 2004 among 878 professionals from youth marketing and research agencies, educational and nonprofit associations including advertising and PR revealed there is deep-seated belief that "most young people can make intelligent choices only as consumers become closer to age 12."

2. Longitudinal and youth marketing researches that include studies made by Roedder, D.; Mackin, M.C.; Roberts, D. F.; Robertson, T.S.; Kimbel, D.; Rossiter, J.R., reveal that 'tweens and younger children lack the cognitive and critical thinking skills as well as life experiences that allow

HAVE/ B2-3

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*Editor* **Aries Espinosa**

# Omegabloc gains ground as heart-protective supplement

MARLON Perez, a 54-year-old banker. Dionisia Reyes, a 65-year-old former teacher. Benjamin Cantos, a 48-year-old marketing executive. What do they have in common?

They are all heart attack victims, and fortunately for them, they survived. They are maintained on several drugs by their attending physicians. They are also taking regularly Omegabloc, a food supplement consisting of omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids to help prevent another heart attack and sudden death.

Omegabloc has now been in the Philippine market for eight years and has become part of the maintenance drug regimen of many heart patients.

Studies show that about half of all deaths from heart disease are sudden and unexpected, regardless of the underlying disease. Half of all deaths due to narrowing of the coronary arteries are sudden, as are half of the deaths due to degeneration of the heart muscle or to cardiac enlargement in patients with high blood pressure.

While deaths from coronary artery disease have fallen, mortality from sudden cardiac death remains the most common cause of death in many countries.

Previous heart attack victims have a risk of sudden death, which is four to six times the rate of the general population. The females are not necessarily the stronger sex in relation to sudden death. At older ages, women who have heart attacks are twice as likely as men to die from them within a few weeks.

To prevent sudden cardiac death, one must treat the underlying problems, i.e. coronary artery disease, high blood pressure, elevated cholesterol, diabetes, smoking and other risk factors.

Over the last 10 years, there is now convincing scientific data showing that omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids in fish oil may have a significant clinical application in the prevention of sudden cardiac death. Heart experts including the American Heart Association (AHA) have now recommended omega-3 in the prevention of heart attack, stroke and sudden cardiac death. It has been suggested that the decreased mortality associated with fish intake may be in part due to a reduction by omega-3 fatty acids of fatal arrhythmias leading to cardiac arrest.

## Consistent effect

Several clinical trials, including the highly acclaimed Gissi Prevenzione Trial published in the prestigious Lancet medical journal have shown a consistent effect of omega-3 in reducing the incidence of sudden cardiac death. In the same trials, no significant cardiovascular benefits have been reported with vitamin E.

The benefits of omega-3 fatty acid therapy in cardiac arrhythmias are now the subject of extensive investigation as cardiac arrest is a major cause of death and various antiarrhythmic drugs are harmful for some patients.

Aside from its antiarrhythmic effects, the other beneficial effects of omega-3 are: decrease in thrombosis (blood clot formation), which can lead to heart attack and stroke; decrease in triglyceride levels; decrease in growth rate of atherosclerotic plaque; improvement in the overall health of arteries; and slight decrease in the blood pressure.

Epidemiologic and clinical trials have shown that omega-3 fatty acids reduce cardiovascular disease incidence. Large-scale epidemiologic studies suggest that people at risk for coronary heart disease benefit from consuming omega-3 fatty acids. Evidence from prospective secondary prevention studies suggests that taking omega-3 (either as fatty fish or softgel supplements) significantly reduces deaths from heart disease and all causes.

Randomized clinical trials (RCTs) have shown that omega-3 fatty acid supplements can reduce cardiovascular events (death, non-fatal heart attacks, non-fatal strokes). They can also slow the progression of atherosclerosis in coronary patients.

There is now abundant literature that omega-3 helps improve overall health and energy level. Aside from its beneficial effect on heart disease, it can also help prevent cancer, depression and Alzheimer's. There are also scientific data showing its benefits in rheumatoid arthritis, ulcerative colitis, Raynaud's disease and a host of other diseases.

Increasing omega-3 fatty acid intake through foods is preferable. However, patients with coronary artery disease may not be able to get enough omega-3 (about 1 gram per day) by diet alone. These people may discuss with their doctor about taking a supplement to reduce their risk of coronary heart disease. Supplements also could help people with high triglycerides, who need even larger doses (2 to 4 grams per day).

Omegabloc is an over-the-counter food supplement in most Mercury and Watson drug stores nationwide. It comes in 1-gram softgels and is recommended at a dose of 2 to 3 softgel capsules daily. It is manufactured by a leading manufacturer of food supplements in the United States.

**FACCIONI CONDUCTS LIGHTING DESIGN SEMINAR**

Lighting designer Nicola Faccioni (2nd from right) of leading Italian lighting company Prisma SpA recently conducted the 'Beyond Lighting Design and Innovation' seminar at the Hotel InterContinental Manila among leading architects and interior designers. In cooperation with Cenit Lighting Philippines Inc, the exclusive Philippine distributor of Prisma products, Faccionni was also assisted by Prisma SpA sales manager (South East Asia and Eastern Europe) Roberto Baggio (2nd from left) in launching the Light Performer 1.0 lighting design software package during the seminar. On hand to witness the event were Cenit Lighting officers (from left) Jennifer G. Calubad, business expansion manager; Mark Andrew G. Chua, general manager; and Joy B. Gamil, marketing manager.

**DOUBLE WINNER IN FRANCHISE EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2004**

Greenwich Pizza Corp, the country's number one fastfood pizza chain, has been awarded the most outstanding Filipino franchise of the year-fastfood category and the franchise marketing campaign of the year-food category at the recently held Franchise Excellence Awards (FEA) night at the Rizal Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. One of the fastest growing companies today, Greenwich today has over P3 billion in sales and more than 230 stores from as far north in Tuguegarao to down south in Zamboanga. 22 other successful franchise companies and franchisees were honored at the annual awards celebration. Regarded as the most prestigious and only award of distinction in the franchise industry, FEA honors franchises and franchisees that consistently exhibit a high standard of growth and development in all aspects of franchise operations. It is a joint project of the Philippine Franchise Association (PFA) and the Department of Trade and Industry. Receiving the award are Greenwich Pizza Corp franchise development manager Ted Ilano and general manager Gina Navarrete. With them are (from left) PFA president Bing Limjoco; PFA honorary chair Jose T. Pardo; DTI Sec. Juan Santos; and PFA chair Samie Lim. FEA 2004 is sponsored by the Philippine Daily Inquirer, GMA-7, PLDT, Ayala Land Inc and Robinsons Mall.

# New hepa B treatment cited

AT THE recent 14th biennial conference of the Asian Pacific Association for the Study of the Liver, a new hepatitis B treatment option was cited. Peginterferon alfa 2-a has been shown to treat both HbeAG-positive and HbeAG-negative chronic hepatitis B, thus removing the need for daily and potentially lifelong therapy for the said disease.

The studies presented during the conference shows that peginterferon alfa 2-a is superior to lamivudine-the most commonly prescribed medication for hepatitis B. The new hepa B treatment works by two-pronged approach-it stimulates the immune system and inhibits virus replication.

"In the case of lamivudine, many patients require long-term therapy but in doing so, they develop resistance, which exposes them to serious health threats. Peginterferon alfa 2-a offers patients and physicians a new treatment option that has a definite treatment duration and lasting remission from the disease. With lower incidence of side effects, this will certainly not only improve the quality of lives of the patients but also reduces the overall incidence of cirrhosis and primary liver cancer," says professor George Lau, gastroenterologist at the Queen Mary Hospital Hong Kong and assistant dean at the department of medicine of University of Hong Kong.

Chronic hepatitis B is a major global health problem affecting more than 350 million people and it is one of the causes of liver failure, cirrhosis, and liver cancer. Between one-quarter and one-third with chronic hepatitis B will develop progressive liver disease and approximately 1 million will die annually, making it the 10th leading cause of death worldwide.

**IBANK, HEALTHWAY RENEW PARTNERSHIP**

International Exchange Bank (iBank) employees continue to enjoy the benefits of an excellent corporate health program as iBank renews its service agreement with Healthway Medical Clinics, the country's largest private outpatient network, with a contract signing held recently at iBank's corporate office. For the past two years, iBank has worked with Healthway in its commitment to boost employee morale and productivity by maintaining a culture of wellness and fitness in the work environment. The contract signing marks the third year of the partnership. Present during the contract signing were (seated, from left) Rey Demafelix, Healthway's human resource development manager; Buena V. Chanco, iBank's executive vice president for human resource management and customer relations cluster; Sito Maramag, iBank's senior manager for compensation and benefits sector; Carmie de Leon, Healthway's sales manager. Standing were Louie Ramos, Healthway's account management officer (left) and Cecilia L. Rodriguez, iBank's head nurse and assistant manager for compensation and benefits sector. For queries on corporate health, call 751-4972 or e-mail ales@healthway.com.ph.

**PRUDENTIALIFE-IMG PARTNERSHIP**

Prudentialife Plans Inc welcomes the International Marketing Group (IMG) Insurance Agency Corp as its new partner in bringing the good life to the Filipino family during the recent signing of a memorandum of agreement. IMG is a 100-percent Filipino-owned corporation, an independent marketing company supported by some of the largest and most respected companies in the world. IMG is positioned to become the leading marketing company to deliver investment products and concepts by providing Prudentialife's pre-need and financial services products. Shown (from left) are Prudentialife executive vice president Bienvenido S. Policarpio, IMG vice president for administration Noel Arandilla, IMG administrator Emil Gatus, IMG president and CEO Jose Enrique delas Peñas, Prudentialife president Jose Alberto T. Alba, IMG chief finance officer Doris Virrey, Prudentialife first vice president for non-traditional marketing Aly Reyes and IMG corporate treasurer Louis Bartolome Borja.

## Bits Clips

### 'The Quadzilla Challenge'

ARE YOU man or woman enough for the 2005 Quadzilla Burger Challenge at Flamers Burgers and Chicken? Flamers is now accepting challengers for this year's finals. The man to beat is last year's Quadzilla eating champion Erwin Kho, a 25-year-old medical student from UST who chomped his way through a 2-pound, 4-pure beef patty on a bun heaped with the works-3 strips of bacon, garlic mushroom sauté, 2 slices of American cheese, 2 slices of Swiss cheese, a ladle of melted Cheddar cheese, BBQ sauce, and Cajun spices-in a mind-blowing 7 minutes and 25 seconds. The challenge requires the contestants to finish a Quadzilla, 100g of French fries made from real Idaho potatoes and a 20-ounce softdrink of their choice in the fastest possible time. So practice for the big event, call 750-7619 for details.

### Consal XIII April 2

THE CONSAL XIII executive board is set to convene its 2nd meeting from April 2 to 4 at the AIM Conference Center. The Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians was established in 1970 in response to a growing sense of Southeast Asian identity among librarians and information professionals. Consal membership comprises the national library associations and the national libraries of the Asean countries Brunei Darrussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Consal convenes a general conference triennially in each member country in rotation. In 2006, the Philippines will again host the Consal XIII general conference from March 25 to 30 at Edsa Shangri-la Hotel. For inquiries, call 921-2180, 920-5514 local 300 or e-mail consal@gmail.com.

### Godiva Safe Sea tour

GET READY for a sizzling summer with the Godiva Safe Sea Beach Tour starting April 2. Gorgeous Godiva Beach Buddies will be roaming various resorts and beaches to invite beachgoers to experience the 2-in-1 protection only Godiva Safe Sea Sunblock can offer. Beach resort guests spotted with their own Godiva Safe Sea Sunblock will instantly receive Godiva Gift Packs. Godiva Safe Sea Sunblock is the world's only solution against marine stingers such as jellyfish, sea lice and coral. Waterproof and with UVA/UVB protection, it is available in two variants: Godiva Safe Sea Sunblock SPF 30 and Godiva Safe Sea Sunblock for Kids SPF 30+. The Tour is co-sponsored by Corporate Air, Boardwalk, Molecules, Happy Feet, Titania, Rebisco, Snickers, Summit Natural Water, Celerity Fitness Water, and Megapixels. For more information, call 890-9844 to 47.

### Indian Folk Painting workshop

TRADITIONAL Indian folk painting workshops will be held at the Ayala Museum for four Saturdays starting April 2 and ending on April 23 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The workshop will explore the ancient techniques of drawing on cotton cloth and hand-made paper known as Mahubani. Participants will learn about the traditional art of drawing Indian gods and goddesses, flowers, birds and animals from Hindu Mythology. Nidhi Prakash, a freelance artist and teacher from India with a special interest in the Indian Folk and Tribal arts, conducts the workshop. For more information, call 757-7117 local 29.

## ProductFiles

# Metrogate Indang, Cavite open house

2004 WITNESSED a tenfold increase in sales of Moldex Realty Marketing Inc's (MRMI) project in Indang, Cavite (Metrogate Indang) with 90 percent of its inventory in phase 1 sold out. "This is due to the project's complete and functional amenities complemented by affordable selling prices and attractive payment schemes," said Theresa Felix of MRMI. Two additional selling points of Metrogate Indang is its proximity to scenic Tagaytay (only a 15-minute drive), and accessibility to public transportation going straight to Metro Manila.

Metrogate Indang was specifically designed to bring the convenience of city living to the laid-back setting of the Cavite countryside. It offers a clubhouse complex for the whole family to cozy up to on lazy weekends; a swimming pool, a basketball court and a tennis court on which to burn off the stresses of the workweek; and even a playground for the kids to enjoy.

Interested parties can go straight to Metrogate Indang or call Tere or Astra at 522-7777 locals 105/106 for details. Interested buyers are welcome to drop in anytime at Metrogate Indang's clubhouse for a whole day of fun, recreation and get together. Those reserving during the day will be entitled to special payment terms and other incentives, including a TV set and other home appliances.

MRMI holds office at the third floor of Golden Bay Hotel, Roxas Boulevard corner Padre Faura, Ermita, Manila and at the ground floor of Moldex Building, Ligaya Street corner West Avenue, Quezon City.

# Subpoena duces tecum: An avoidable process in tax audits

**By Wilfredo U. Villanueva and Noel G. Liok**
*SGV & Co.*

ON THE premise that taxes are the lifeblood that runs the vast machinery of the government, how does the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) deal with uncooperative or errant taxpayers when conducting tax audits? With the drive to enhance the government's revenue performance, tougher measures are certainly the BIR's rejoinder.

**TAX-FILES**

The BIR can, in fact, rely on a compulsory process more generally associated with proceedings in courts to facilitate the examination carried out by its revenue officers. It is empowered to issue and enforce subpoenas duces tecum in order to compel a taxpayer to present his tax records for tax audit purposes.

The taxpayer will benefit in paying attention to this compulsory process since noncompliance carries criminal penalties. Moreover, the guidelines prescribed by the BIR in this process can be useful since the same guidelines also imply the limits of the process. By understanding the process and by knowing these limitations, the taxpayer can, at best, prevent or, at the acceptable minimum, manage this process which can often prove disruptive and stressful and can present unwarranted risks.

What is a *subpoena duces tecum*?

A subpoena duces tecum is an order which requires a person to bring with him books, documents or other things under his control.

In the context of assessments, a subpoena duces tecum commands a taxpayer or its officer, under the threat of penalty, to appear before an office of the BIR at a specified time and to bring a described set of tax records, for example, contracts, general ledgers, sales journals and other accounting documents.

The power to issue subpoena duces tecum is anchored in Section 5(C) National Internal Revenue Code of 1997 (1997 Tax Code).

This provision gives the BIR commissioner, in ascertaining and collecting tax liability or in evaluating tax compliance, the authority to summon a person liable for tax or required to file a return, or any officer or employee of such person, or any person having custody of the books of accounts and other accounting records to appear before the commissioner or his authorized representative at a specified time and place and to produce such records.

## Preparation before issuance

Noting that investigations of tax liabilities are sometimes unnecessarily delayed due to "uncooperative" taxpayers, the BIR issued certain procedures preparatory to the issuance of a subpoena and its enforcement by legal action. Specifically, Revenue Audit Memorandum Order 3-82 fleshes out the audit procedures for documenting the non-cooperation of a taxpayer in the presentation of his books and other records for inspection.

The procedures require that:

1. The revenue examiner first request the taxpayer, in writing, to make available for inspection, the relevant books of accounts, accounting records and particular documents, indicating the time and date when the records should be made available.

2. If on the appointed time, the documents are not presented, the examiner should seek an explanation and again make a written request.

3. If, for the second time, the taxpayer fails to present the required records, the examiner must request an explanation in writing, signed by the taxpayer, why the records are still unavailable.

4. During all the stages above, the examiner should prepare a memorandum of interview, signed and dated, which should contain the date, time, place and persons present as well as a statement of what transpired. It bears stressing that the memorandum of interview may be used in the event of trial.

Thereafter, the examiner, in consultation with his supervisors, should then submit a written report, pinpointing the records not made available, the taxpayer's officers who are liable, and the cause of the unreasonable and/or unnecessary delay in his investigation. Finally, the division chief or the revenue district officer will forward the case to the chief of the prosecution division or the legal branch for the issuance of the subpoena or the filing of the case in court if needed.

## Issuance of the subpoena

Revenue Memorandum Order (RMO) No. 35-90, as amended by RMO No. 09-03, lays down additional guidelines and states that the recommendation for the issuance of the subpoena is further evaluated by the prosecution division or legal branch. More importantly, it confines the authority to issue the subpoena to the following revenue officials only:

In appropriate cases, the commissioner and the deputy commissioners.

1. At the national office: The assistant commissioner of legal service

2. At the regional offices: Director, or in his absence, the assistant director, or the chief of legal division, only as an alternate and as may be authorized by the regional director.

Once issued, the subpoena should be served by the revenue examiners assigned to investigate the case or any revenue officer deputized for this purpose. A subpoena is served by handing in person an original copy to the individual named. If he refuses to receive it, it is tendered to him as witnessed by another revenue officer. If personal service is not possible, a copy may be left either at the taxpayer's:

1. Residence with person of suitable age and discretion residing there; or

2. Office or regular place of business with some competent person in charge.

Remedies to enforce compliance of the subpoena

Where the taxpayer or the person named fails, refuses or even neglects to comply with the commands of the subpoena, he may be proceeded against by:

1. Filing a criminal case for violation of Sections 5(C), 14, 266 of the 1997 Tax Code. Upon conviction, he may be punished with a fine of not less than P5,000 but not more than P10,000 and imprisonment of not less than one year but not more than two years; and/or

2. Initiating proceedings for indirect contempt at the Regional Trial Court under Sections 3(f) and 12 of Rule 71 of the Rules of Court.

## General observations

Because the guidelines require the examiner to exhaust two requests for the submission of documents, the taxpayer should have enough breathing room to comply without the compulsion and adversarial nature of a subpoena. Unlike the process of a subpoena—normally a last resort to secure information—in these instances, the taxpayer and the examiner can often agree on a workable leniency in the assessment's timetable and documentation process. Thus, it would be prudent for the taxpayer to capitalize on these instances to seek helpful clarifications, for example, on the extent or kind of documentation required or its relevance to the assessment. In short, prior to a subpoena, there is more flexibility.

In addition, the RMO requires the BIR to document the process through a memorandum of interview. Hence, as a precaution, the taxpayer should have his own form of documentation in the event that there is dispute in the process and the BIR's memorandum is used in trial. The taxpayer's own documentation may serve as a reference to supplement or even countercheck the BIR's memorandum.

As stated in the beginning, knowing the guidelines can also help the taxpayer determine whether the subpoena was issued by the authorized BIR officials or if certain procedures have been omitted in the issuance.

## Conclusion

For both the government and the taxpayer, there is a shared goal: the completion of the tax audit without much delay and unnecessary use of scarce resources. Toward this common goal, the ideal is to maintain a balance between the pursuit of government's interest and the preservation of the taxpayer's rights.

On the one hand, if revenue collection can be achieved faster, under an atmosphere of cooperation within the legal bounds, then fewer people and processes will be involved (e.g. the prosecution and adjudication in court are avoided). The government's resources that are freed up can then be channeled to other tasks that need as much if not critical attention. For the taxpayer, on the other hand, the short-term objective is to hurdle a tax audit with the least problems, while minimizing manpower and stress and avoiding potential risks of penalty associated with a subpoena. In the long run, all these efforts contribute to and remain consistent with the business objective of maximizing the bottom line.

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# Cosmetic surgery market . . .

From page B2-1

JOEY Santos, Dr. Vicki Belo and Architect Guillermo Garcia

ate [her pre-med course] and I take time to talk to them and find out why they want to go through the procedure. Belo says if she feels the patient may have unrealistic expectations with the procedure she advises against going through it.

The Belo group opened last Monday its newest clinic at the Westgate Center in Alabang. Westgate was developed by the Gotianuns, who own the Festival Supermall.

Santos says the Westgate clinic is the biggest of the Belo Clinics." The south has the most growth potential. Our clients come from Laguna, Batangas, Cavite and Quezon."

The Westgate clinic is a complete set-up unlike their previous branch in at the basement of the Alabang Town Center which only offered facials and body treatments. The Westgate branch offers the full range of services of the Belo Medical Group.

During opening day last Monday, the clinic offered a 30-percent discount on services. It raised P204,000 which it will donate to a group caring for battered women.

The other segments of the Belo Group's market are the 20 to 39-year-olds whom Santos says basically go for the facials and body scrubs; the 40 to 65 who are the liposuction and Obagi patients. And the 65 years and older who religiously go the clinic at least once a week.

The demand for cosmetic procedures has been on the uptrend the past years as the stigma of undergoing a surgery has eased in Philippine society. This was largely boosted by the Belo group's move to tap popular actors and actresses to endorse their various procedures.

The market has also expanded from the wealthy who were the only ones in the past to undergo the procedures to ordinary individuals who use up their savings to have a nose lift, a breast augmentation, or a liposuction.

The two-story Westgate branch has a café.

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# LRT, MRT: New war zone . . .

From page B2-1

riders have to wait for at least three minutes for the next train to come along.

"Riders claim to be a hurried lot, but they have some time to observe things and people around them," said the survey conducted by Market Readers Inc. late last year.

Train wraps—advertising executed on the train body—also made a stronger impact on the riders, largely edging out the advertisements placed outside the station and inside the train in terms of recall.

The study said the train wrap—noticed by four out of five MRT and LRT riders—was the most visible location for Palmolive and Zest-O ads.

Other brands recalled on train wraps include Tekki Yakiudon, Close-up, Vaseline, Sunsilk and Yakisoba.

The study however showed a slightly different list on brands most often used by riders. Brands most often used by MRT riders are Colgate, Safeguard, Jollibee, Alaxan and Avon. Most often used by LRT1 riders are Safeguard, Jollibee, Alaxan, Zest-O and Avon. Dominant brands among LRT riders are Colgate, Safeguard, Jollibee, Zesto, San Miguel Beer and Avon.

The study said that advertising inside and outside the LRT and MRT stations, and train wraps, make an impact and are readily recalled because these "entertain" the riders, although many deny that the advertising actually influence their purchases.

The survey showed that the big majority of the train riders bought personal care products, ate in fast food restaurants and bought cards for cellular phones. Jeans and pain relievers were also frequently bought items.

The majority of the riders also read INQUIRER Libre, particularly the MRT and LRT1 riders. Not so much for the LRT2 riders, as they may not have access to enough copies or are too preoccupied to read the free paper.

They read the free paper inside the train, and many bring it to office and school. More of the LRT2 riders bring/read the paper outside the station.

The study also showed that majority of the train riders regularly spend for dining out, shopping and cell phone loads.

Train riders spend an average of P1,000 per shopping trip, P430 for sports activities, P300 every time they load their cellular phones and P500 per dine out, according to the survey.

Brands purchased by the MRT riders include Colgate, Safeguard, Jollibee, Alaxan and Avon, some of which were the same brands recalled by the train riders.

In the hotly contested cellular phone market, Smart was shown as the more popular network among the train riders, particularly for the LRT 2 riders. Nokia was the dominant brand for the cellular phone, followed by Sony Ericsson and Samsung.

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# Have ethics when you sell goods to kids

From page B2-1

them to process selling pitches objectively. This makes them highly susceptible to advertising pitches, specifically those clothed in advertainment or advergames—advertising loaded and creatively executed with entertainment and gaming. This susceptibility hastens the kid's adoption of undesirable social values like materialism. Researchers maintain while 'tweens recognize the persuasive intent of commercials, they have not developed the cognitive and attitudinal defenses necessary to make an objective interpretation of selling messages.

Countries, like Sweden and Norway, have taken active steps to protect their children from a culture of commercialism by prohibiting TV advertising aimed at children under 12. These countries include Sweden and Norway. Denmark, Greece and Belgium have restricted children advertising. While other countries like the US and UK recognize the impracticality of a total ban, they are nevertheless guided by strict codes of practice and self-regulation that include:

1. Restrict the quantity of commercial messages leveled at children and allow only kid-relevant messages.

2. Restrict in-school marketing. Psychologist Daniel Acuff, co-author of the book, "What Kids Buy and Why," admits that "schools should be off-limits to advertising."

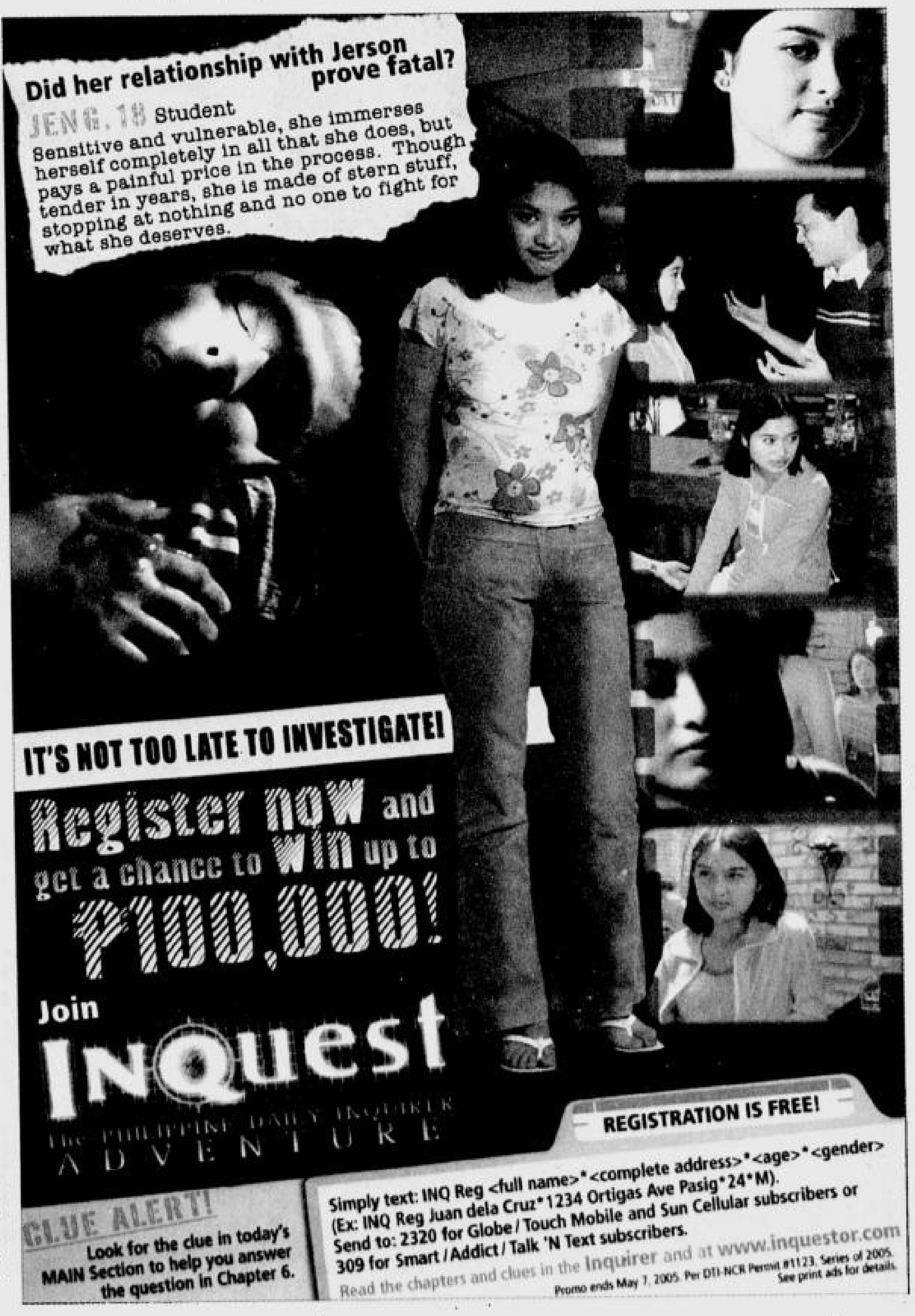
While in-school marketing and sponsorships have been a source of additional money for schools, the best way is to encourage marketers to develop kid-relevant messages targeted to school age children that are far more discerning and well-informed, critical thinkers. Likewise, schools at all costs must avoid advertising content steeped with consumerism.

3. Observance of positive advertising content. Ad materials directed at children must go beyond raising brand awareness and avoid implicit references of becoming social outcasts without the product or service. Also, marketers must avoid consumerism pitches coated in superbly executed advertainment or advergaming commercials.

The growing data on youth marketing has practical implications to how local marketers, media practitioners, advertising agencies and its self-regulatory body, government and public policy makers, family and civil society including educational institutions and nonprofit organizations, look at how children must be presently raised, educated and contribute to society in the future.

A dramatic causal finding made by Juliet B. Sohor's longitudinal research reveals a vicious cycle that "kids who become overly involved in the values of consumerism become problem kids while problem kids continue to become overly involved in consumerism."

*(The writer is a professor of Brand Management at the De La Salle Professional Schools Graduate School of Business. Feedback at kdeasis@skyinet.net.)*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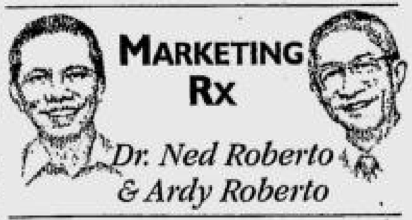
Send to: 2320 for Globe / Touch Mobile and Sun Cellular subscribers or 309 for Smart / Addict / Talk 'N Text subscribers.
Read the chapters and clues in the Inquirer and at www.inquestor.com
Promo ends May 7, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit #1123, Series of 2005. See print ads for details.

# BUSINESS Friday

## Advise for a bleeding pizza entrepreneur



Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

Q: I have a pizza store across a private school and church. We are also surrounded by many public schools. Our prices are much lower than most big pizza stores but our quality is almost the same if not better.

We have a 100 percent positive feedback from our customers. In addition, many of them are repeats and regulars.

I am puzzled since our sales seem to reach its maximum at P2,000-P3,000 per day and we open from 9 a.m.-3 a.m. daily. We need to sell at least P4,800-P5,000 per day to break even. My target is to sell P7,000-P10,000 per day to be profitable.

I noticed a lot of idle hours especially from 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

We are also aggressive in giving out flyers and putting streamers. We also do telemarketing and are building our database of customers for marketing purposes. We also offer free delivery within a 30-minute scooter ride.

How can we reach our sales target? I am planning to sell by the slice to students but the personal pizza we have is only P40. The students are not going to the store. How can I reach (out) to them?

If I sell it by the slice, it might incur more losses since the remaining slices might get stale. Please advise.

A: Since you need to double sales soon to break even and stop the bleeding of cash, you might as well risk and try doing some new stuff. (Note the philosophers' definition of insanity: Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result.)

You mentioned yourself that the quality of your pizza is tops and may be even better than the rest and that you get lots of your business from repeat customers. If that's so, then you need to get people to try and taste your pizza. Do some free trials. Here are some ideas:

1. Taste and see that my pizza is great! Free! In front of your store, cut up some pizza slices into bite-sized morsels and do what Auntie Anne's pretzel does in the malls. Give free taste to those who are passing by the store (students, teachers, etc.). When the junior MRx was in a food court in a Washington, D.C. mall, there was one stall that was giving out bite-sized, toothpick-pierced chunks of their special barbecued honey chicken. The Chinese owner was not only handing it out to passers by, but was also very noisy about it, shouting out: "The best barbecued honey chicken in the world! Taste it here!" Curiosity got the better of the junior MRx and boy was the advertising true! It was the best! In a couple of minutes, the Chinese owner had the longest line in the food court.

2. Bribe the teachers! Sponsor some of the PTA or teacher lunch or dinner meetings. Offer to send pizza to some of the faculty or staff of the nearby private school who are working overtime. If they like the pizza they will most likely remember you and want to repeat the pizza experience.

3. Promo the off-hours. During the non-peak or slow traffic hours, offer some kind of promotion that will increase store traffic—or else don't open so early. Maybe start at noontime instead. And then offer *merienda* specials.

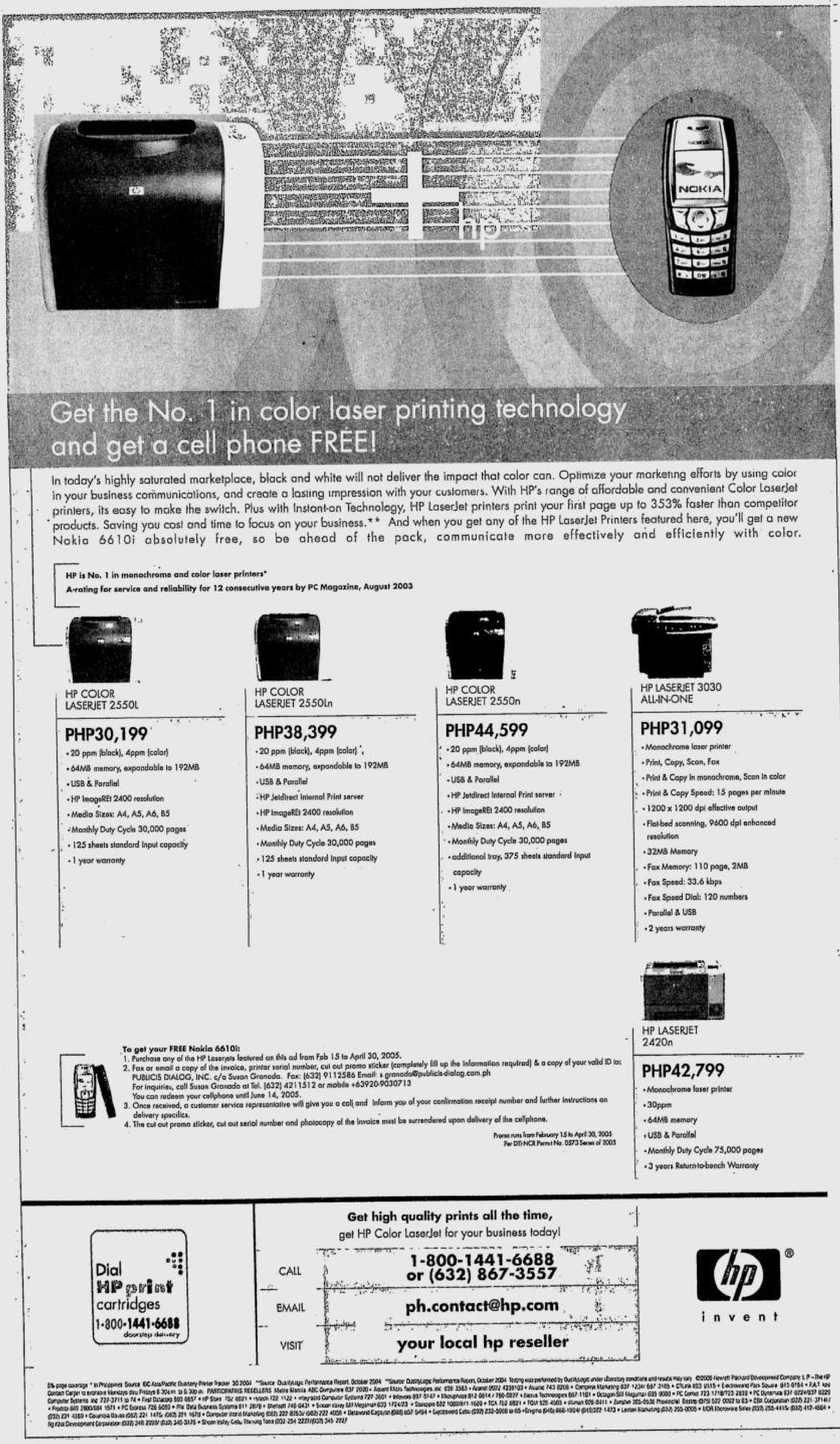
4. Be cool to students. To get the students to come to the store, your store has to be "cool." Why would they want to hang out at your pizza joint? At the same time, you don't want runts and riff raff hanging out there—that's bad news. Why not offer your place as a student council meeting venue and tell them that the first pizza is on you.

5. Create buzz. Another well known marketing tactic used by street-smart entrepreneurs is to "hire" a crowd. Dencio's was said to have done this in their first Blue Ridge branch. Suffering from dismal sales, the owners invited all their relatives and friends over all at the same time to create an impression that customers were swarming the place. (The net desired—and achieved—effect was that people said, "Wow! That place must be good ... *dinudumog*!")

Count all of this as your promotional/marketing expense. Build goodwill and trial at the same time. All of this will surely come back to you.

If it doesn't, then that just means that in your neighborhood, great-tasting pizza is not a priority value of the majority. Perhaps the priority value is "cheap food that is filling." So your competition may be P4 squid balls vendor or the P5 Lucky Me! Instant noodles available at the dozen or so "Jollijeeps" along the street. P40 for a personal pizza may be too much for the average consumer/student in your area. If so, then shake the dust of your feet and move your store to another location where your pizza will be appreciated.

*Keep your questions coming. If you also would like to send suggestions to this pizza parlor owner, send them to us too at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412.*



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PHP38,399
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- 64MB memory, expandable to 192MB
- USB & Parallel
- HP Jetdirect Internal Print server
- HP ImageREt 2400 resolution
- Media Sizes: A4, A5, A6, B5
- Monthly Duty Cycle 30,000 pages
- 125 sheets standard input capacity
- 1 year warranty

HP COLOR LASERJET 2550n
PHP44,599
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- 64MB memory, expandable to 192MB
- USB & Parallel
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- Parallel & USB
- 2 years warranty

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You can redeem your cellphone until June 14, 2005.
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BONG Osorio presents his book

## PR case book launched

THE FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND casebook for the local PR industry, entitled "The Best PR Programs & Tools," was launched recently at the 2005 International Association of Business Communicators' (IABC) Gold Quill Award ceremony held at the Ayala Museum.

Bong R. Osorio, former president of IABC and head of Campaigns Advocacy & PR Inc. (Capri), edited the casebook, assisted by Art Cariaga for the case writing and Oscar de Castro for the design.

The book covers a selection of award winning cases, whose stories will be useful for everyone who wants to bring the PR profession to world-class caliber.

Practitioners, client companies, teachers, students, and business managers who want to see if they are getting their money's worth from their communication-driven programs can pick up substantial lessons provided in all of the 23 featured case studies.

Guide questions were included at the end of each case to help PR educators trigger meaningful discussions among their students that can result to faster comprehension of data available, and a deeper understanding of how various PR programs and tools work.

The UST Publishing House, led by its director, Dr. Mecheline Intia-Manalastas, published the milestone-setting book. It has been endorsed to universities and colleges offering PR communication courses.

For more information about the book you can call Tel. Nos. 8937320 or 8133330.

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e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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P99
DUNKIN' DONUTS
RAINBOW
Choco Rings

# Future-perfect skin

### A leading dermatologist says the skin needs to bleed in order to heal

DR. GEOFFREY Heber, founder of Ultraceuticals, is the No. 5 user of injectible wrinkle-smoother Restylane world-wide, and the biggest user of Botox outside America.

**By Kitty Go**
*Contributor*

FIRST it was make-up artists hawking their own line of make-up in the legacy of Max Factor—Nars, Bobbie Brown, Shu Uemura, Laura Mercier, Stephan Marais, Lorac, Stila, et al. In the last few years, though, there has been an influx of (this time!) dermatologist-formulated skincare lines.

This is not new at all, with today's derma beauty pack being led by Hungarian dermatologist Erno Lazslo marketing his eponymous line in the 1940s (a cult line until today) and New York dermatologist Norman Orentreich consulting for Clinique in the 1960s.

Of course, today the market is flooded with MD lines a-plenty, such as Howard Murad, Dennis Gross, Fredric Brandt, the big-three among the countless. But it is one thing to put your name on a jar and another to be a dermatologist, specifically a distributor of such lines, then decide to create your own line with the purpose of creating newer, more efficient products. One begins to wonder, why? What did the others not have?

Enter Dr. Geoffrey Heber of Australia who, together with his wife Dr. Deborah Davis, have formulated Ultraceuticals, a skincare line sold only through skin care specialists and salons. (www.ultraceuticals.com)

Dr. Heber started his practice in 1988. In 1991 he began to internationally distribute such dermatologist-backed skincare labels like MD Formulations, Neo-Strata and Cellex-C ,which were met with global success. Today, his practice in Australia specializes in non-surgical cosmetic medicine. Treatments include injectable filler treatments, Botox injections, laser treatment of various skin disorders and laser hair removal, sclerotherapy treatment of leg veins and the treatment of ageing skin with medical anti-ageing creams and peels.

Dr. Heber is known in the industry not only for this new and effective skincare line but primarily as the second largest user of Botox outside America, and one of the top five users of Restylane and collagen worldwide.

In Taipei as part of his Asian roadshow also covering Singapore/Malaysia and Hong Kong, Dr. Heber discussed his latest skincare line, how to achieve glowing skin and the REAL future of wrinkles and sagging facial muscles. His answers, all simple, straightforward and informative, will surprise you.

**Having distributed other lines and having run a successful practice, why did you have to develop your own line?**

My medical practice is very busy and, according to supply, we are the biggest Botox user in Australia. We have treated thousands and, from my experience, I knew what ingredients and combination of ingredients I needed to treat our patients successfully.

**What would you classify as perfect skin?**

Perfect skin is moist, firm, glowing and smooth in texture. To make skin beautiful we must first treat any existing imperfections like lines, spots, pigmentation and blemishes. Next, you must provide skin with nutrients like vitamins. And, finally, you must protect your skin with UV blockers and moisturizers.

**What makes Ultraceuticals (UC) different from other MD formulations in the market?**

Every person's skin is different. In fact, it is very much like fingerprints. Our formulations can be individualized from very mild for sensitive skin to stronger formulas and anything in between but only by professional advisers.

The line is not tested on animals but tested on humans for efficacy. We use the best ingredients—AHA, BHA, pure vitamin C and retinol. Then we have a patented system of delivery and stabilization of these ingredients such as vitamin C and vitamin A in retinol.

And finally, I know our products work because my patients are happy and they continue to use the products.

**A Hong Kong dermatologist once told me that invasive surgery (plastic surgery under the knife) is now a last resort in the quest for youth. Can you comment on this?**

We have to treat skin from an early age so our skin does not lose elasticity and we may not need invasive surgery. With current ingredients in topical applications (creams, ointment, gels) and non-surgical treatments (injectables like Botox, Restylane, collagen), we

FUTURE/ C4

ULTRACEUTICALS
Dark Circle Eye Cream
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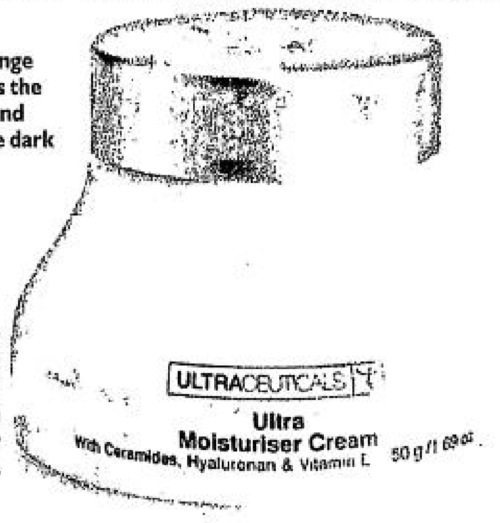
NO more circles. Patented microsponge technology controls the delivery of retinol and vitamin K to reduce dark circles.



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Ayala Center Cebu (032-234-1005) • Robinsons Starmills Pampanga (045-636-3546) • Robinsons Galleria East Wing (634-4234)
Gateway Mall Araneta Center (912-8114 / 912-8339) • SM City North Edsa (927-7560/61)

*Rustan Marketing Specialists, Inc. (RMSI) is the official franchisee of Marks & Spencer in the Philippines*

**READY TO PARTY.** Kathy Bacosa and Karrie Bitanga

**BEAUTIES** who party. Amanda Griffin and Jill Kierulf

**COZY TWO.** Raymond Rufino and Anna Palabyab

**LOVERS** off and on the ramp. Bianca Valerio and Mikee Carreon

**HOT, HOT** Superfly. DJ Karl Ty

# Bliss concerts in Manila and Boracay

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

*Maurice Arcache*

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

**WE LOVE SUPERFLY.** Ria Francisco, Manika Yujuico and Jed Dario

**HANDSOME** Rafa Alunan with gorgeous Amina Aranaz and popular Leo Po

LAST YEAR, Superfly, a hot new clubbing promoter, gave Manille's hip partying pack a taste of Bargrooves with the UK's hotshot DJ **Ben Sowton** rocking the RCBC Tower's 40th floor to Intensity 9.

Our town's partying elite grooved to deliciously sophisticated house music, *palanggas*.

This summer, Superfly goes on second gear, to give us a taste of "Bliss."

The music of this fab, well-loved Danish quartet is a mix of uplifting cool-down tempo grooves, rooted in a blend of Western and African idioms, taking us all far beyond the beaches of Ibiza, on a journey to the African soul, mellowed by a Scandinavian coolness of love that's awesome, *palanggas*.

With its big hit, "Kissing!" Bliss enthralled its audience when it performed at a special concert last March 30, at the popular Prince of Jaipur at The Fort. It will also perform on April 2 at the Paraw Beachfront before the beautiful sunset of Boracay.

Presented by Smart Infinity, Superfly's second event is surely not one to be missed.

For the Bliss concert in Manille, get your tickets at all Tower and Music One stores. There's a 50-percent discount for Smart subscribers.

### Travel auction

On its 11th *tres* successful year, the renowned Great Ship Adventure Cruises (GSAC) hosted a smashing one-night super-fun appreciation bash, "Vintage 1941," for its past and present cruise-loving passengers at the main lounge of the posh-y Manila Polo Club, *palanggas*.

As invitees breezed in their vintage attires, they were serenaded by the cool voice of **Jimmy Ng**, accompanied by pianists **Sammy Caluya** and **Jun Jimenez**, playing the classic vintage tune of "As Time Goes By," plus others songs popularized in the '40s.

The hostess with the mostest of the night was tall and elegant world traveler, **Beth Tioseco**, the president of GSAC. She was assisted by the fun **Poncy Quirino**.

The Friends for Cultural Concerns in the Philippines (FCCP) was introduced to the guests by its current president, **Mellie Ablaza**.

**Dino Molina Jr.**, corporate account officer of Philippine Airlines, introduced the item to be auctioned, which was a round-trip economy air ticket for two to any Asian destination.

The winning bid was $700 by physicians **Pablo** and **Lolita Fandialan**.

Then, **Andrea Solis**, sales executive of Star Cruises Philippines, auctioned off a three-day, two-night Kuala Lumpur cruise for two in an ocean-view stateroom with balcony on board the Superstar Virgo. The winning bid was $600 by **Marc Ablaza**.

**HOT** artists Jose Tence "Boogie" Ruiz and Imelda Endaya Cajipe

**SUPER-NICE** Marietta Holmgren bags a ticket to a Royal Carribean International cruise during the auction. Samuel Manalo, top sales and marketing manager of Royal Carribean International/Celebrity Cruises, awards her the certificate.

**YOU'RE** on candid camera. Isha Andaya, Pauline Suaco Juan, both Preview gals; my pal, PR and columnist gent JR Isaac; and Cosmopolitan's fashionable Myrza Sison

**HOTSHOT** night-lifers. L-Time Studio's Lorenz Manalang with Embassy's Erik Cua and Jon Herrera

**Samuel Manalo**, sales and marketing manager of the popular Royal Caribbean, auctioned off a fab seven-night Hubbard Glacier Cruise of Alaska for two, in an ocean-view onboard Radiance of the Seas. The winning bid was $600 by **Marietta Holmgren** who was also the best-dressed woman of the night.

**Kookie del Rosario**, sales and marketing manager of Costa Cruises, then auctioned off a seven-night romantic Mediterranean cruise for two, in an ocean-view stateroom, with balcony, on board the Costa Mediterranean.

The winning bid was a cool $3,200 by **Solite Tan-Gatue**.

Finally, it was the turn of the hostess, **Beth Tioseco**, also the general sales agent of Silversea Cruises. She auctioned off a seven-day cruise for two on a vista suite to any destination on board any ship of Silversea Cruises.

And the winning bid was a cool $6,500 by the president of FCCP herself, Mellie Ablaza.

All the proceeds will go to several projects of the FCCP, which is a non-stock, non-profit organization that supports talented artists, develops audiences for the arts, and grants scholarships to young artists.

Needless to say, *palanggas*, it was a great night for a truly good cause.

### Terra-cotta sculptures

The super-prestigious Galleria Duemila once again presented a fab collection of eye-catching sculptures by the brilliant **Julie Lluch**, no less, palanggas.

Titled "Terra-cotta," the show featured stunning, awesome life-size figures of Maranao women wrapped in their *malong* in various stages of sitting, squatting and sleeping.

A fantastic acoustic performance was staged by **Bayang Barrios** and **Cynthia Alexander** with **Nerisa del Carmen Guevarra** who hypnotized us with her dancing to the cool sounds, *palanggas*.

Among our town's hotshot lovers of good art were **Gilda Cordero Fernando** and **Dalisay Tolentino Mendez**, who opened the exhibit with the great artist herself, Julie Lluch, who was with her daughters—**Aba**, **Kristali** and **Sari Dalena**.

Mingling during the cocktails were hot artists like **Twiggs**, **Ramon Orlina**, **Roberto Robles**, **Jose Tence "Boogie" Ruiz**, **Imelda Endaya Cajipe** and **Romulo Olazo**.

If you're interested about these one-of-a-kind sculptures, call the gallery through **Troy Manzo** or **Cecille Corpuz** at 6343261 or 6336687. E-mail duemila@info.com.ph or duemila@mydestiny.net. Check out www.galleria_duemila.com.

The artworks are a winner, *palanggas*.

**FASHION PLATE.** Eye-catching Avi Siwa

**DOING** the must-do! Ribbon-snipping are the guests of honor Gilda Cordero-Fernando, Dalisay Tolentino Mendez and Ambassador Manuel Mendez.

**HOSTS** of a vintage night. Poncy Quirino with Beth Tioseco, president of Great Ship Adventure Cruises and general sales agent for Silversea Cruises

**SILVANA DIAZ** and brilliant sculptor Julie Lluch with her awesome collection of terra-cotta Maranao women

**ALL IN THE FAMILY.** Julie Lluch with daughters Kristali, Aba and Sari Dalena

**NAMEDROPPABLES** Nookie and Cesar Lanuza, business magnate Tony Cuyegkeng, FCCP president Mellie Ablaza and Marietta Cuyegkeng

**LET'S GO** on a cruise. Southern beauty Celia Diaz vda. de Laurel and her son, renowned singer Cocoy Laurel, with the star of the affair, tall and elegant Beth Tioseco, plus Linda Cuan and Mac Cuan

**CHARITABLE** women Ofelia Trinidad, Tess Castro, Lydia Reyes and Sol Tan-Gatue, one of the cruise winners at the auction

# 35 years of Great Shopping

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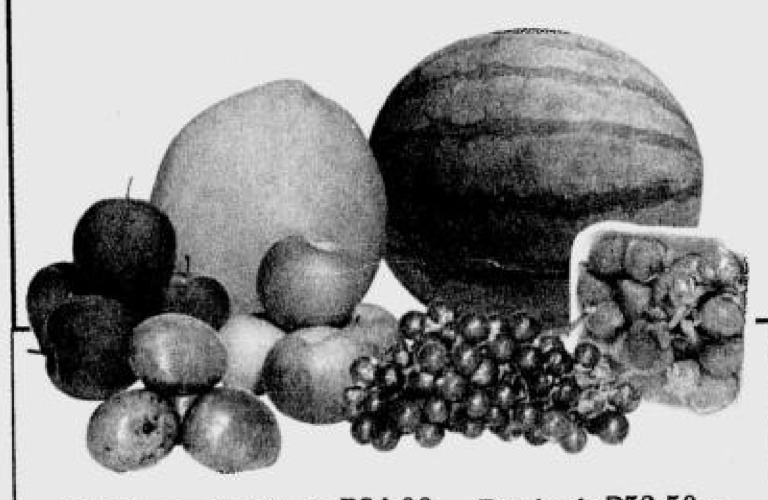
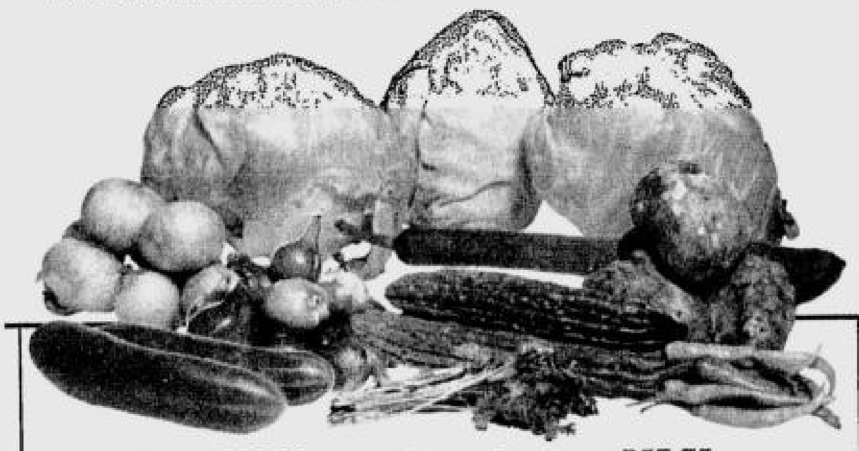
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0784, series of 2005

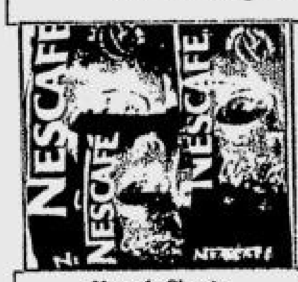


**Washington Red Apple ₱84.00/kg • Fuji Apple ₱52.50/kg**
**Davao Pomelo ₱78.75/kg • Strawberry 250g ₱26.25/pack**
**Indian Mango ₱12.60/kg • Flames Red Seedless Grapes ₱168.00/kg • Seedless Watermelon ₱26.25/kg**

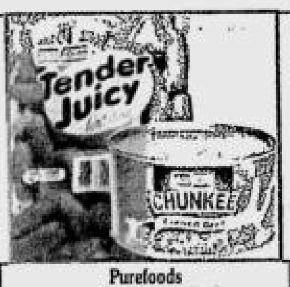


**Patola ₱18.90/kg • Hot Pepper Pansigang ₱57.75/kg**
**Wansoy ₱210.00/kg • Lettuce ₱49.35/kg**
**Camote ₱10.50/kg • Native White Onion ₱23.10/kg**
**Cucumber ₱21.00/kg • Cabbage ₱23.10/kg • Ampalaya ₱36.75/kg**
**Native Red Onion ₱26.25/kg**

**Don Luciano**
Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah, Merlot
75cl ₱244.50/bot
**Doña Elena**
Red Wine
750ml ₱105.00/bot



**Nescafe Classic**
Refill
100g P52.60/pack 50g P27.45/pack
25g P14.80/pack

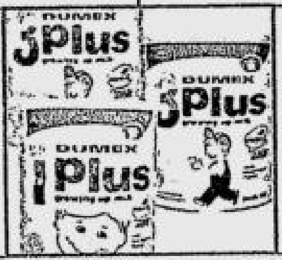


**Purefoods**
Chunkee Corned Beef
350g P48.45/can
Tender Juicy Hotdog Cocktail
1kg P148.30/bag

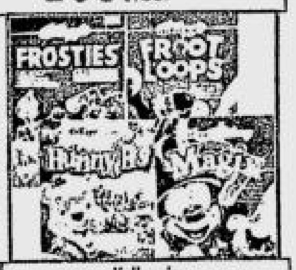
**CDO**
Bibbo Cheesedog 1kg P140.65/pack
Lechon Paksiw 155g P17.95/can
Liver Spread 85g P11.15/can

**Nestle**
Ice Cream Karambola 425ml P63.50/bucket
Mais Nata-Con Hielo Cup 100ml P17.50/cup
Buko-Piña Pandan 100ml P17.50/cup

**Mama Sita's**
Bbq Marinade
150ml P18.75/bot 350ml P33.50/bot
680ml P57.00/bot
Liquid Seasoning 150ml P20.25/bot



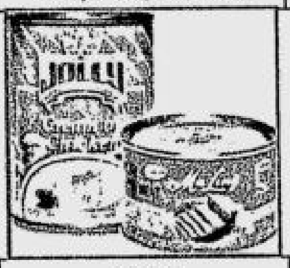
**Dumex**
1 Plus Honey 1.6kg P646.25/can
1 Plus Vanilla 1.6kg P646.25/can
3 Plus Honey 1.6kg P609.25/can
3 Plus Vanilla 1.6kg P609.25/can



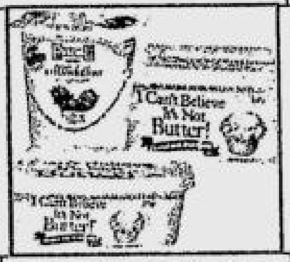
**Kellogg's**
Frosties 300g P98.60/box
Frootloops 350g P131.25/box
Mickey Magix 155g P113.05/box
Hunny B's 297g P113.05/box

**Snapple**
(All Flavor) 355ml P22.85/bot
**Mc Cormick**
Seafood Chowder, Shrimp Bisque 45g
Marascos 55g, Gambas 60g P15.90/pack
Calamares, Fish Nuggets 50g P13.65/pack

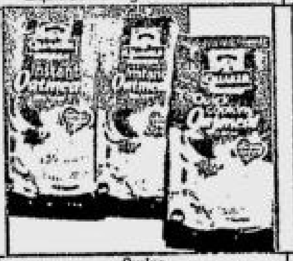
**Campbell's**
Carb Request Chicken Broccoli, Mediterranean, Roasted Chicken, Savory Beef Mushroom, Spicy Sausage Chicken
553g P115.30/can
Broccoli Cheese 304.8g P62.50/can Beans w/ Bacon 326g P57.50/can Chicken Noodle 304.8g P37.50/can



**Ma Ling**
Premium Pork Luncheon Meat
170g P17.50/can
**Jolly**
Cream of Chicken 297.7g P32.00/can



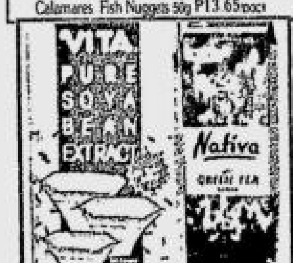
**Leche Pascual**
Yogurt Low Fat, Non-Fat Strawberry
125g P21.90/tub
**I Can't Believe It's Not Butter**
375g P160.00/tub 500g P213.75/tub



**Quaker**
Quick Cooking Oats Foil
400g P47.40/pack 800g P85.25/pack
Instant Oats Foil
400g P48.00/pack 800g P87.00/pack
Quick Cooking Oats
[illegible] P148.50/pack

**Happy Day**
Orange Juice 1liter P60.00/tetra
**Old Orchard**
Cranberry Juice 320ml P173.00/bot

**Albers**
Yellow Corn Meal 567g P85.00/box
**Fry Top**
Bread Crumbs 230g P53.00/pack



**Vitasoy**
Calci-Plus Hi-Calcium 1 liter P57.00/tetra
Pure Soya Bean Extract 1 liter P55.00/pack
**Rauch**
Nativa Gingko Tea 1 liter P55.00/pack

**Sunkist**
Pistachios 455g P229.90/bag 910g P437.95/bag
**Planters**
Cheese Ball White Cheddar 102.1g P54.50/pack
Cheddar & Sour Cream 121.9g P54.50/pack
Cheez Mania 474.9g P114.50/can

**Lipton**
Chai Tea Latte Mix (All Flavors)
283.5g P191.00/pack
Iced Tea Mix Lemon
19liters P271.00/can

**Old Fashioned Cheese Dip**
Cheese & Salsa, Nacho Ranch, French Onion
226.8g P68.40/jar
**Log Cabin Syrup Original**
340.2g P114.50/jug [illegible] P175.50/jug
[illegible] P232.50/jug

**Skippy**
Roasted Honey Nut Creamy, Super Chunk
510.3g P129.00/bot
**Planters**
Peanut Butter Creamy, Crunchy
340.2g P73.50/bot 510.3g P98.50/bot

**Nestle**
Baby Ruth, Butterfinger, FunSize
396.9g P152.50/pack

**Tenka**
Ichiban Rice Crackers
56g P27.00/bag 112g P52.00/bag
**Master Malpen**
72g P33.00/bag

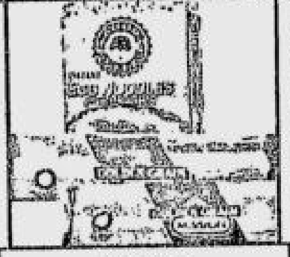
**Hormel**
Dinty Moore Beef Stew & Biscuit Mix, Classic Baked Chicken & Dumpling, Chili & Corn Bread
595.3g P225.50/box
**Campbell's**
Spaghettios 425.3g P48.00/can w/ Meatballs 411g & Franks P70.50/can

**GFIC**
Sugar Free French Vanilla Cafe
Suisse Mocha Decaf
124.7g P129.00/box

**Carnation Coffeemate**
170.1g P62.50/bot 311.9g P91.50/bot
453.6g P124.50/bot 623.7g P157.50/bot
**Simply Cereal**
Honey & Almond Crisp, Choco Chino Cereals
400g P128.50/box

**Libby's**
Cream Style Corn, Whole Kernel Corn
426g P25.50/can
**S&W**
Whole Corn, Cream Style Corn
418.3g P25.50/can

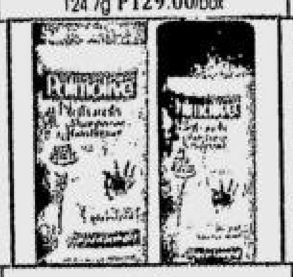
**Nabisco**
Teddy Grahams Chocolate Chips
283.5g P57.00/box
**Jacobsen**
Denmark Macadamia Cookies
200g P70.50/box



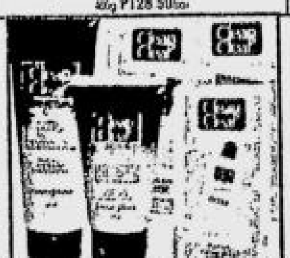
**Golden Grain**
Linguine 453.6g P41.00/bag
Vermicelli, Spaghetti 453.6g P36.50/bag
**Good Life**
Egg Noodles 400g P31.50/pack

**Baygon**
TIK, KB/WB Aerosol 420g P192.25/can
**Pledge**
Lemon
300ml P136.80/can 400g P163.00/can

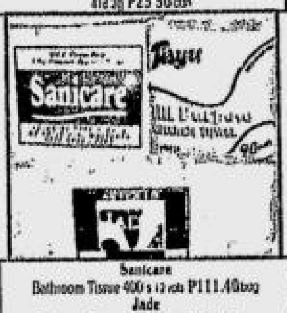
**Head & Shoulders**
Refreshing Menthol, Naturally Clean 400ml P152.80/bot
**Pantene**
Total Care, Smooth & Silky Conditioner 375ml P159.95/tube
**Ariel**
Ultramatic 1.6kg P241.95/bag



**Palmolive**
Shampoo Green Normal
100ml P35.65/bot 200ml P65.95/bot



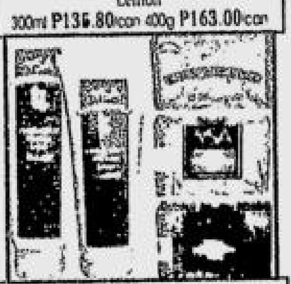
**Clean & Clear**
Deep Action Cleanser 100ml P86.15/tube
60ml P50.00/tube 10ml P26.10/3s
Sachet Foaming Facial Wash 10ml P26.10/3s
Daily Pure Cleanser Sachet 10ml P26.10/3s



**Sanicare**
Bathroom Tissue 400's 12 rolls P111.40/bag
**Jade**
Bathroom Tissue 2 Ply 48rolls P334.25/bag
**Tisyu**
Kitchen All Purpose 4rolls P101.95/pack

**Softee Plus**
2 Ply Bathroom Tissue 12rolls P113.75/bag
**Drypers Diaper**
Jumbo Large 48's P360.00/bag
XL40's P335.00/bag

**Lysol Disinfectant**
Spring Waterfalls, C Scent, C Linen, Original
340g P181.80/can
Pine Scent, Fresh Scent, Regular Scent
500ml P153.90/can



**Yes**
Botanical w/ Papaya Soap 135g P29.20/pc 65g P16.10/pc
Bleaching Soap 90g P28.55/pc Whitening Soap 90g P56.70/pc
Clarifying Soap 90g P56.70/pc
Botanical Face & Body Whitening Lotion
125ml P64.30/tube 250ml P108.80/tube

# Future-perfect skin

From page C1

can make so much more of a difference now than in the past.

**Can any current skincare treatment get rid of wrinkles?**

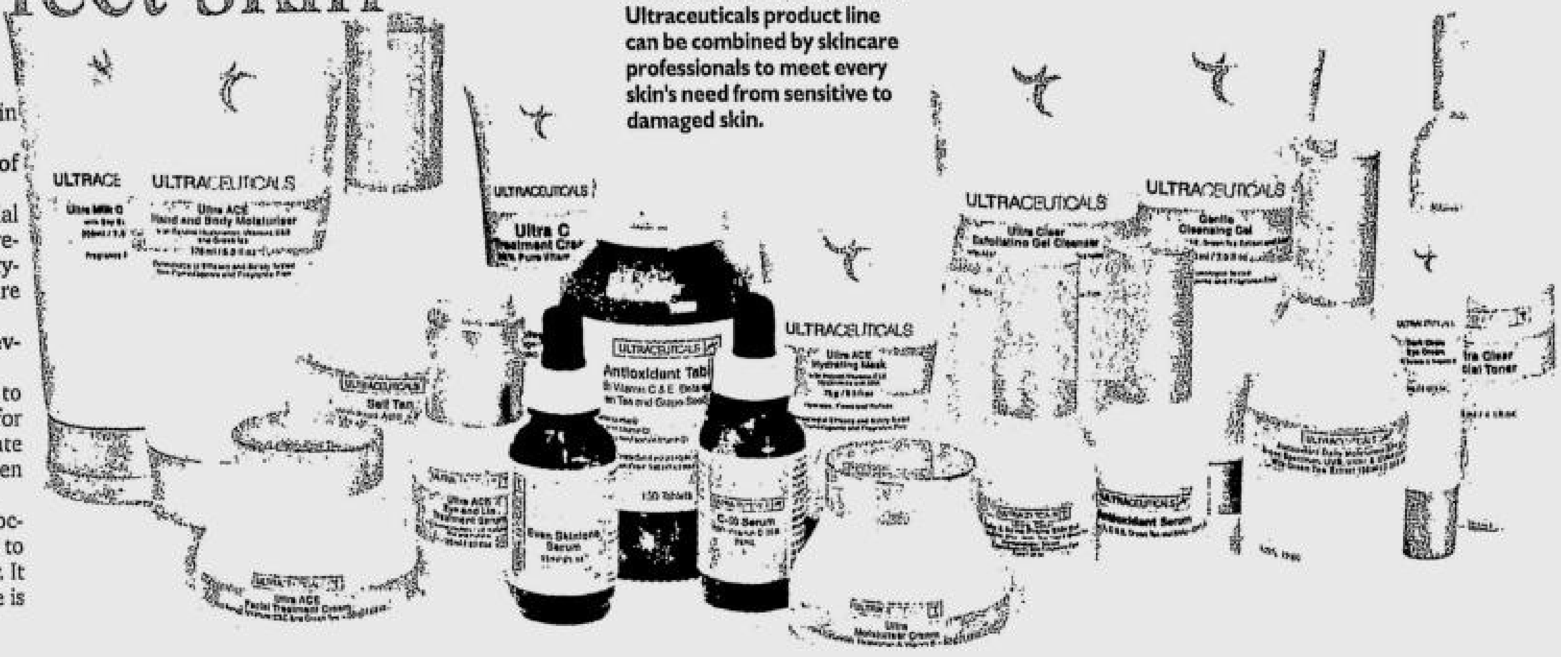
Currently no skin care product can treat facial lines. That's asking too much, but we can add to results of an effective skincare line. Botox and Restylane are complementary (to an effective skincare routine.)

**Do you think wrinkles and sagging skin will ever be treated topically?**

Very likely, in years to come, we will be able to treat our wrinkles topically. Firming maybe, but for now we really have to create an injury or stimulate the skin so that it will want to heal itself to tighten up.

So there it is, boys and girls, straight from the doctor's mouth. Unfortunately, for now, you still have to bleed to firm up, but wrinkles are just a shot away. It doesn't hurt to take precautions, though and there is always hope....(perhaps one day) in a jar!

*Email kittygo_pdi@yahoo.com*



**LIKE fingerprints, each person's skin is different: From serums to scrubs, items in the Ultraceuticals product line can be combined by skincare professionals to meet every skin's need from sensitive to damaged skin.**

## Announcing the shopping event of the season

3-day Summer Sale
Up to 70% off
on selected items.

## April 1, 2 and 3, 2005

**Mall Hours: 10 am - 11 pm**

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-210. Series of 2005.

THE
PODIUM
18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City

## A SHOPAHOLIC'S GUIDE TO THE PODIUM SUMMER SALE

The Podium's upcoming 3-Day Summer Sale on April 1, 2, and 3 is being touted as the mall's shopping event of the season. With fabulous discounts on selected items, the sale is sure to satisfy every shopaholic's desire.

Here are a few guidelines to the sale, and more importantly, the lowdown on the great finds in store at The Podium's shops:

- Do check out the mall's trendy boutiques such as British India, Gas, Buffalo David Bitton, Bayo, Kamiseta, and Bench who are offering discounts of up to 50%. Nautica, Sisley and Just G have discounts of up to 30%, Gingersnaps, Kate and Jack with up to 40% while Giordano is taking up to 90% off on selected items.
- Indulge in that shoe fetish ..guiltlessly and grab the perfect pair of shoes at CMG with as much as 71% off on shoes and bags, Shoe Salon with up to 50% off, Rockport with 15% off and Lacoste Footwear with as much as 40% off.
- For the sports enthusiast, head on over to Nike Park and avail of as much as 20% on men's and women's footwear, gear up at Toby's with discounts of up to 15% off on the latest sports apparel, rackets, hobbies and equipment.
- Planning to travel this summer? Globe trekkers are in for unbelievable discounts at Victorinox who are offering 10% off on luggage and accessories; and at Samsonite who are cutting their prices down to as much as 70% on luggage, attaché cases and handy cases.
- Sparkle this summer with jewellery from Hans Brumann and get up to 15% off on selected pieces.
- Stand out with the season's must have designer eyewear at Les Lunettes de Paris and get up to 50% off.
- Tech-savvy shoppers are in for a 10% discount on PC software and books at Data Blitz.
- Load up on books at Bestsellers National Bookstore and get as much as 20% off on imported paperbacks, trade books and children's titles.
- Mom's can't miss the great discount at TK by Toy Kingdom who is offering a 10% discount on toys such as Bratz, Nickelodeon, Gundam, and Little Tikes; and 30% off on baby furniture, equipment and accessories at Baby & Co
- Fab finds for the home at Artesian Waterworks who are giving as much as 50% off on selected items, and at Living Well with discounts of as much as 80% off.
- Take a breather from all that fabulous shopping and enjoy the San Miguel Summer Music festival with the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra and the San Miguel Master Chorale with the special participation of Maestro Ryan Cayabyab at 7 PM on April 1 and at 5 PM on April 2 and 3
- Recharge at any of the mall's restaurants and cafes. At Café Breton, diners are in for a minty-fresh treat with Listerine Pocket Packs given for every cup of coffee ordered; at Cinnabon get more than 25% off, and at Pinoy Don get a free iced tea or lemonade for every minimum food purchase of P75.00
- Hook up with friends at The Chill which will feature M.Y.M.P on April 1, Pido on April 2, and Candles on April 3. All shows start at 8 PM.
- Shop 'till you drop with the mall's extended hours – from 10 AM to 11 PM.

For feedback, e-mail us at
lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

Text us your feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

# Life-styled patriotism is chic

**LIFE-STYLED**

*Thelma Sioson San Juan*

ONE dinner last week at the newly resettled Le Soufflé at Rockwell Club, which must have the biggest share of power diners per square foot these days, **Vivian Yuchengco** walked to our table to "*beso-beso*" the two power women whom we cannot name, and to be told that Rep. **Teddyboy Locsin** had just been named in a conflict-of-interest complaint filed with the Philippine Press Institute. Expectedly, tomorrow's front page was being written at that table by women.

What caught Vivian's eye was the Philippine flag pin on my collar. She also had one on hers, which I thought she got from **Gabby Lopez** who has enjoined ABS-CBN executives to wear the Philippine flag pin. It has become part of our corporate attire at ABS-CBN and we learned that Gabby has been giving flag pins to friends and sundry.

It doesn't take a government to remind us of our worth as a people. What Filipinos can't articulate, they wear

LIFE-STYLED/D3

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Sign here: ✓ ______

Write 3 choices of your log-on username. Make sure your username has 6-10 alphanumeric characters. For example, michael88.

1st Choice: ______

2nd Choice: ______

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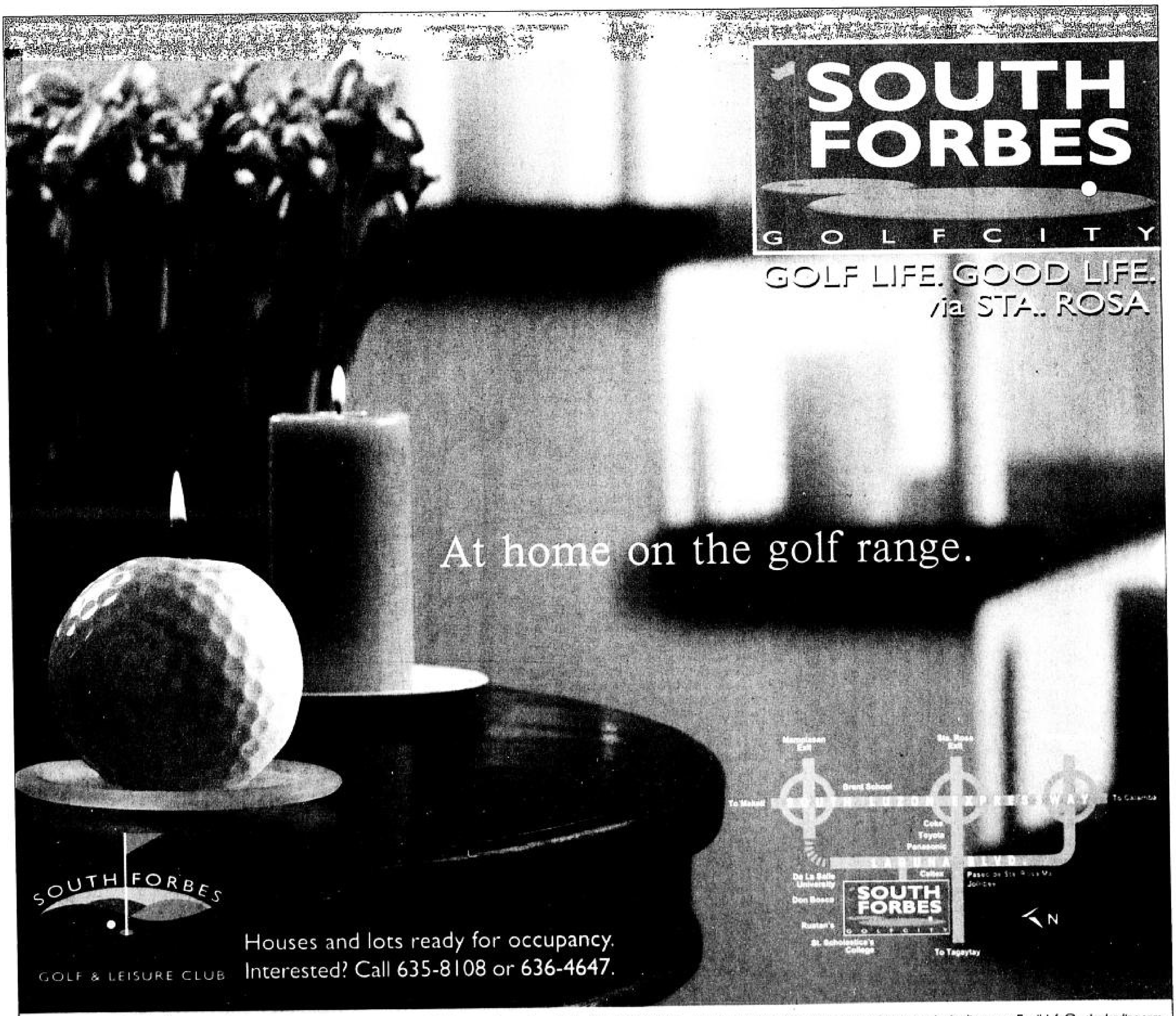
PLDT



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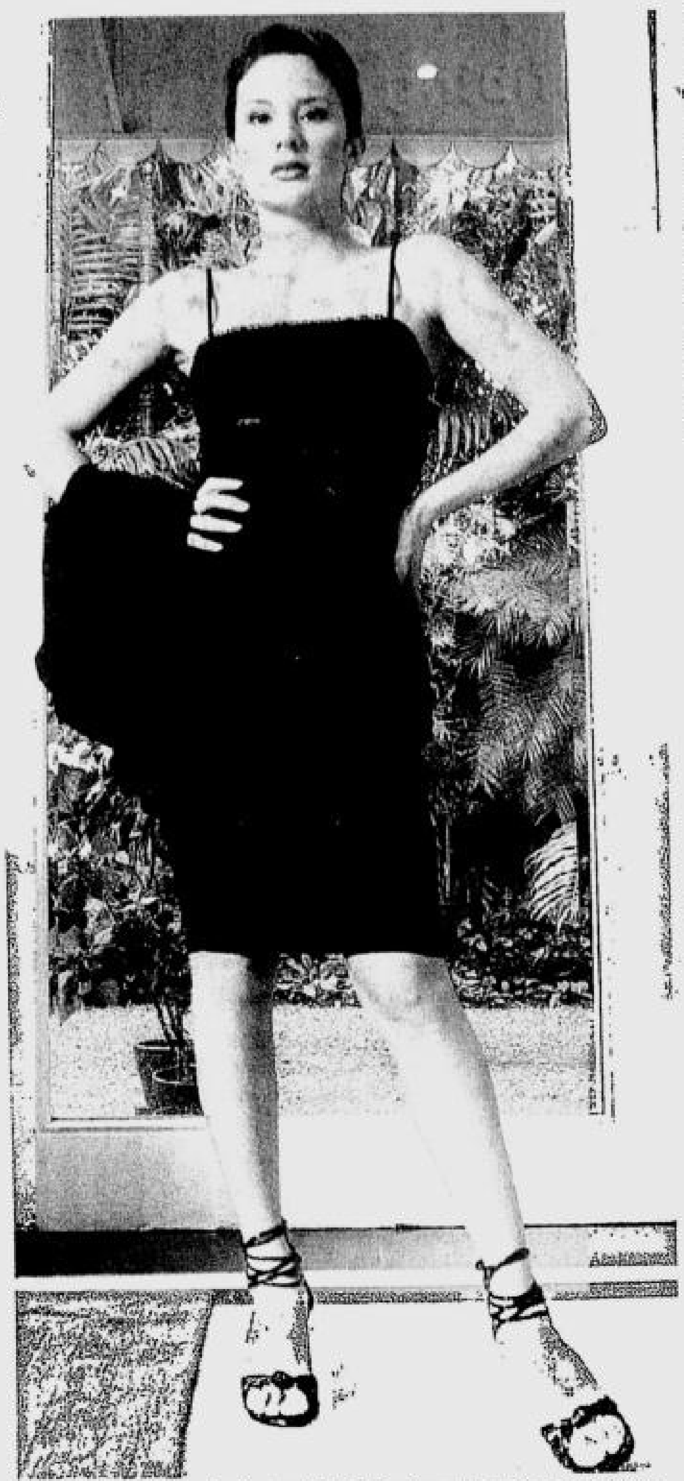
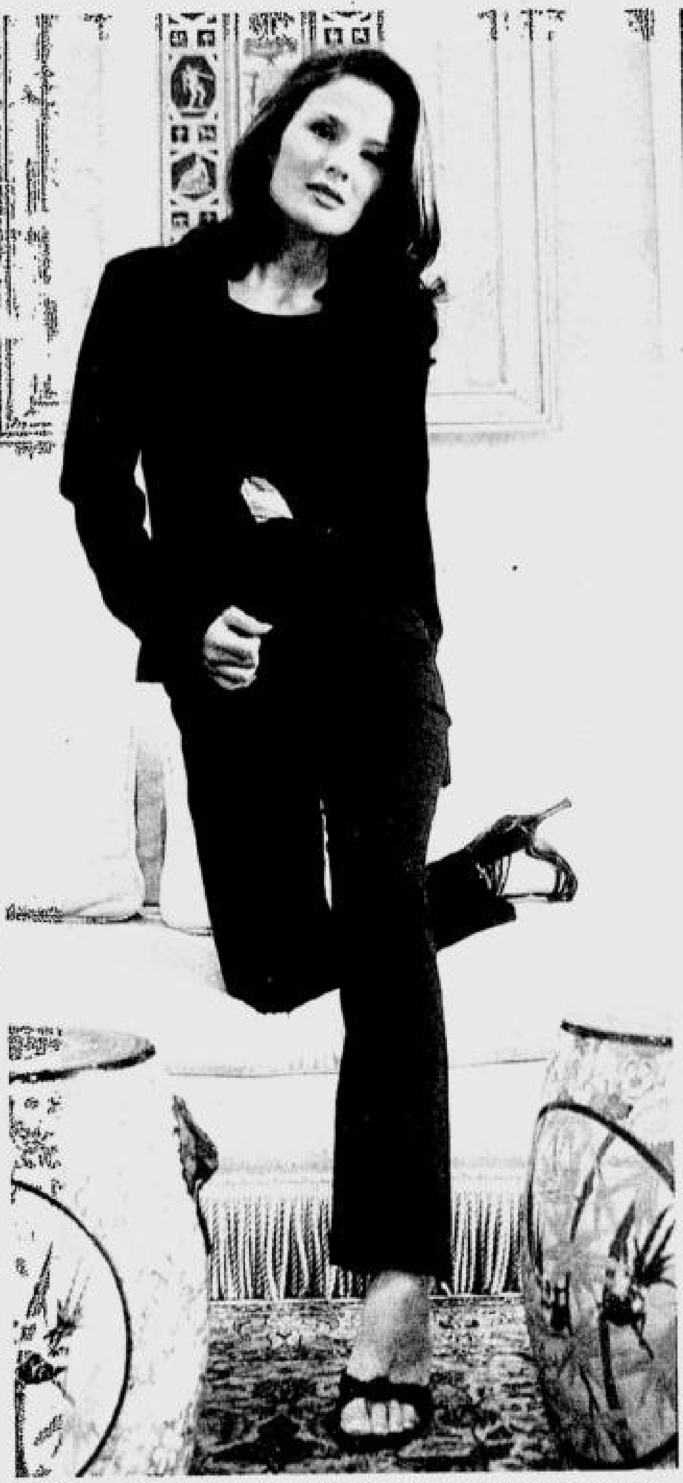
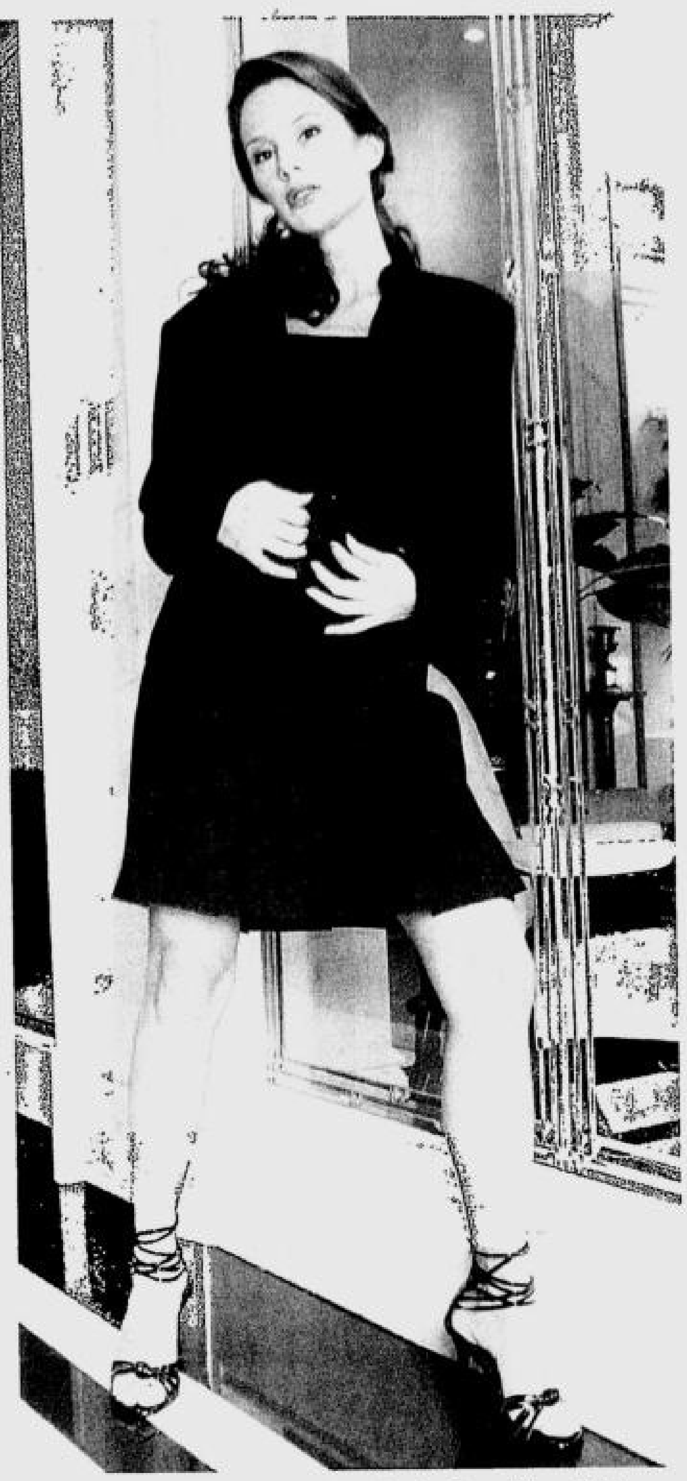


**CAREER** by day, cocktails at night. Going from the office straight to social affairs is now easy by wearing a slim black top with lace overlay, ribbon detail and ruffled hem, and pairing it with a pinstriped pencil skirt and matching jacket.

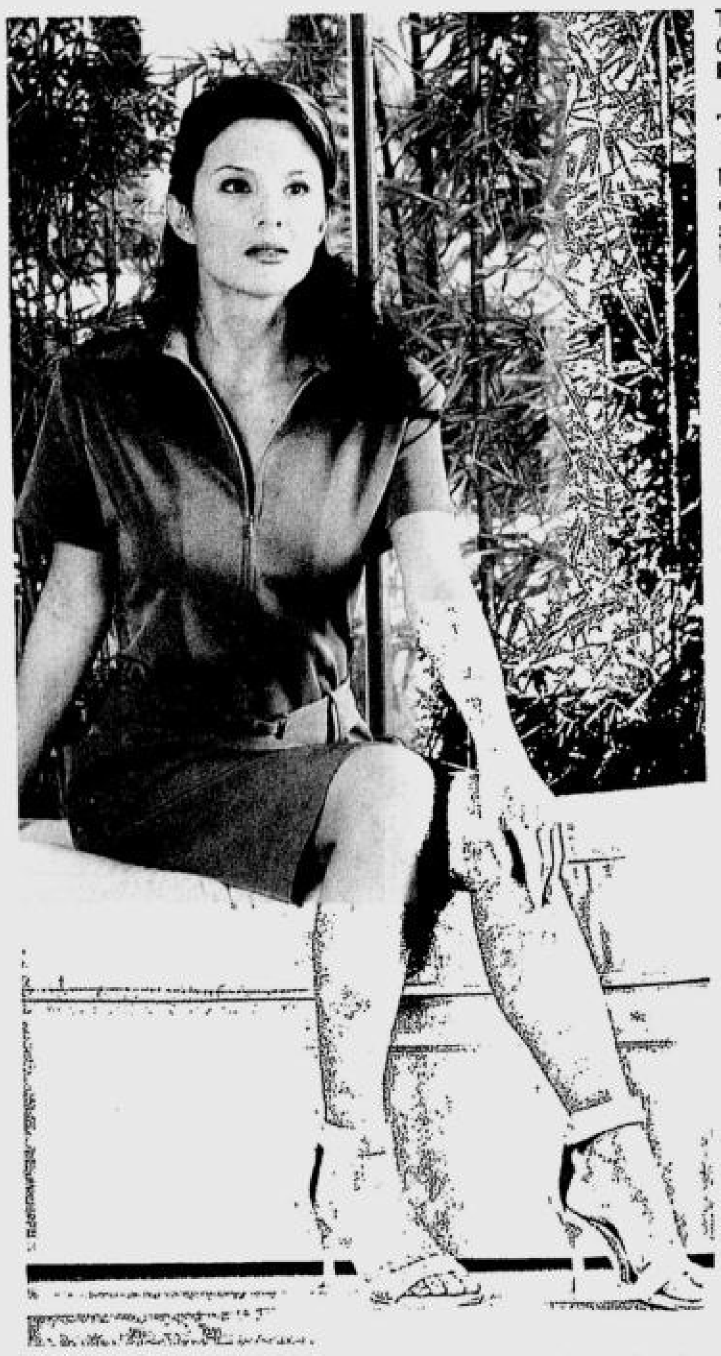


**TOP** brass. This classic black three-piece suit exudes equal amounts of authority and flair.



**SERIOUS** business gets a chic twist with the pleated hem of this sheath, worn here with strappy sandals. Black blazer adds the power touch.

# All suited up



**ON TOP** of her game. For those who wish to wear something other than the usual separates, this brown zip-up dress with matching wide buckle belt is an exciting but still office-appropriate option.

**Text by Shirley Oh**
*Contributor*
**Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan**

THE POWER suit is back!

Instead of mannish jackets with football-worthy shoulder pads, however, today's corporate fashion is all about sleek suits with classic lines that mean business by day and sophisticated fun by night.

Think less Melanie Griffith in "Working Girl" and more Miranda Hobbes in the boardroom, or even Charlotte York at the art gallery. With women becoming more vital players in the workplace today, it's high time that they look and dress the part. For this, a stylishly professional outfit is key.

"For quite some time, people have become too casual in their office attire," Suitables designer Bobby Novenario laments. "They just wear a blouse and then pants and then go to work."

Now, with his latest line of suits for Suitables, the fashion brand known for its top-of-the-line corporate outfits, Novenario is out to help more women—as well as men—look more authoritative, capable, competent and, well, suitable, for their jobs.

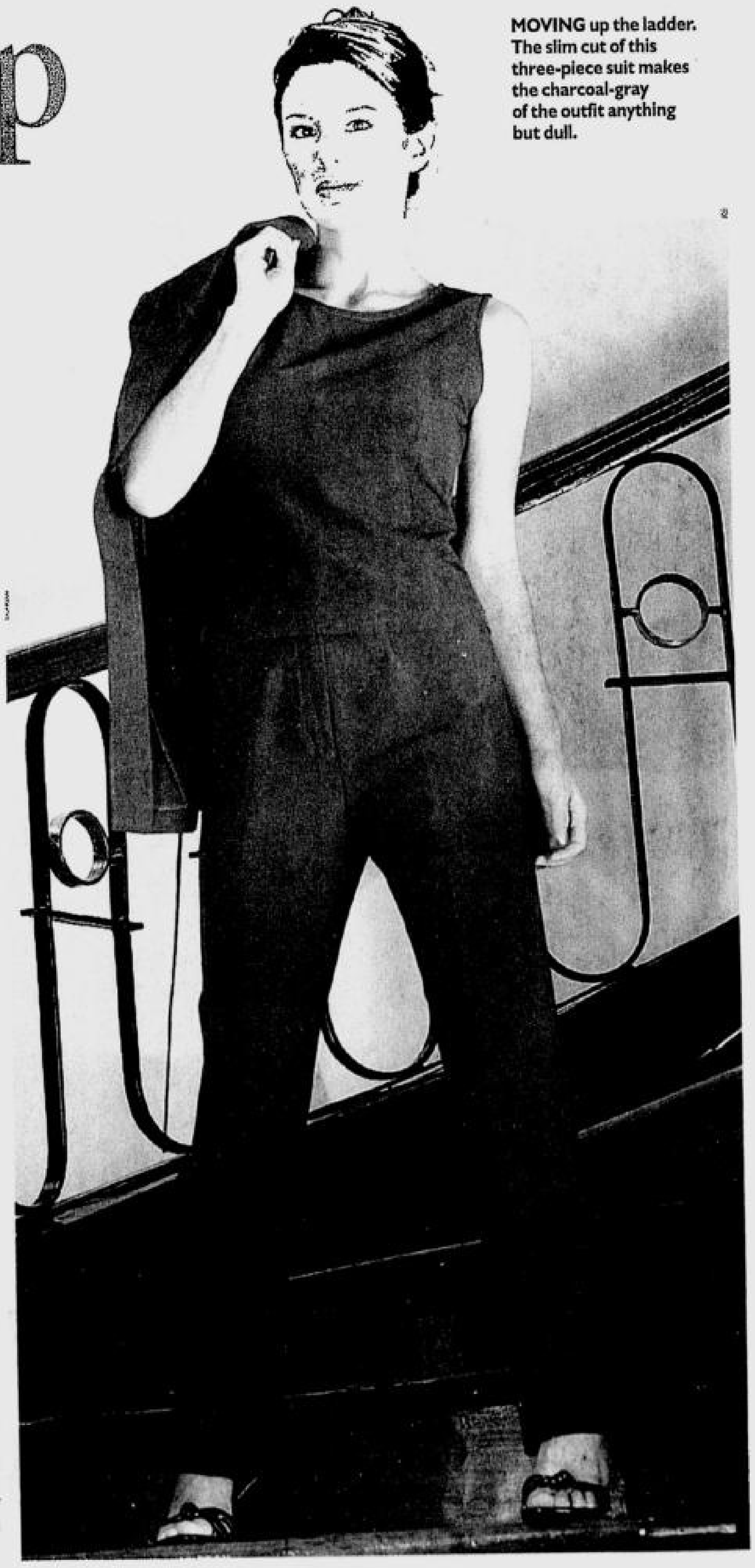
"Suits are definitely coming back," he says, "and what is good about the clothes in Suitables is that people can pick the styles they want without looking too different or inappropriate for work."

Indeed, with everyone wary of committing the two usual pitfalls in corporate dressing—namely, looking boring and looking unprofessional—a store that offers off-the-rack options, made to suit the Filipina's demands to conform with office dress codes yet stand out at the same time, is just what hard-working professionals need.

"The most important thing is a good fit," says Novenario. And with suits sporting details, such as an ergonomically slim belt that is of the same material and color as the jacket, or a strappy inner blouse with cinched waist, no one—from bright-eyed secretaries to decision-making executives—will ever need to worry about looking frumpy and shapeless at the office.

Paired with very attractive price tags ("The most expensive suits cost only around P2,000," says Novenario), wearing a Suitables suit is the easiest way to show you mean business.

*Bobby Novenario's latest line of suits are available at all Suitables outlets: Glorietta 3, SM North Edsa 2/F, SM Megamall A G/F and Department Store, SM Makati, SM Megamall, SM Pampanga, SM Southmall, SM Baguio, SM Bacoor Department* Stores and Greenhills Shopping Center.



**MOVING** up the ladder. The slim cut of this three-piece suit makes the charcoal-gray of the outfit anything but dull.

MODEL: BIANCA ARANETA
HAIR AND MAKEUP:
JUNE LAGUARDIA OF RJ SALON, GILMORE, QUEZON CITY
SHOES BY CONFETTI

# Life-styled patriotism is chic

From page D1

"Of course not," Vivian said when told that hers must have come from Gabby. "I've been asking everyone to wear the flag. He could have gotten the idea from me."

So there you go. The move has snowballed. More and more people now like to wear the flag pin. At last, we must be sick and tired of bashing ourselves, and have realized that we have but one home, one country, rotten or not.

**Pacquiao**'s match went beyond boxing. The man who lost the fight remained a champion in people's minds if only because of the Filipino's hunger for heroism. Amid the daily muck, we have forgotten how it feels to be good and clean.

And we want to get back that feeling. We want to retrieve that pride of place. It doesn't take heroic will to do it, just good old patriotism. Superficial it may be, patriotism will do for now that Filipinos are clutching at straws to feel that wholeness as a nation.

While we declare that feeling of resignation, deep inside us, we have that feeling of goodness about ourselves and our country, and that feeling doesn't have to come from government or any politician. We know that we still have that innate sense of service and accomplishment, and the people, in their personal capacity or as pockets of community, are forging on, with or without the official institutions. We don't need a government or a decree to remind us about our worth as a people.

In daily lifestyle, that patriotism, that sense of nation, is becoming more and more apparent even in only the superficial modes, as in fashion. You have the flag pin, for instance. A local brand, Bayo, has just launched a campaign directed at its young Filipina market that proclaims its fashion line to be "Filipino and Proud." Splashed on its citrus green T-shirts is "Young Talented Filipina." It believes its market is "young, talented and truly proud to be Pinay." Its tank shirt has the words in glitter—"La Pinay." How hip. How timely.

Indeed, amid the mess, patriotism is back in fashion. Not to trivialize things, but patriotism is now chic. What young Filipins can't articulate, they wear.

## Captive market

Following the patriotic drift, the Ayala Alabang Village Association is doing its bit. Given the financial resources of this gated village, that is not really a teeny-weeny bit. Instead of feeling helpless about wanting to do good for the country, a group of women (why are they always women?) and a few good men are organizing an arts and crafts festival to showcase the various crafts from all over.

If the market can't go to the supply, then the goods will come to the market. Friends Inc., an informal group composed of **Marilen Espiritu**, **Carmita Francisco**, **Denise Mañosa** and **Maymay Liechtenstein**, has gathered craftsmen, artists and hobbyists, from as far as Baguio, Quezon and Laguna, to as near as its Alabang backyard, to exhibit and sell wares at the Makiling Park in Ayala Alabang on April 2 and 3. That's this weekend.

They'll have **Bencab**, who'll bring the Baguio basket weavers, **Jon Pettyjohn**, **Rachy Cuna** (who, by the way, has an exquisite 1930s ancestral home in Paco, Manila, which can be tapped for private dinners and parties), among the celebs.

Artists and craftsmen will do demonstrations. The range is impressive: Apart from visual arts, there'll be basket weaving, "*walis*" making, Pakil wood whittling, crystal lamination and stone printing workshop by artist **Alex Manabat**, demonstrations on beadwork art, baking, crochet art, bonsai art by **Oding Reyes**, even healing-as-an-art demo by Dr. **Martin Camara**.

You can look forward to a good weekend of shopping for anything from crafts to delicacies. Over lunch at Marilen's house, after the refreshing *batchoy*, the mouth-watering *cochinillo* done in the oven right in the Espiritus' sprawling garden, we got to sample flavored *suman* (*ube*, *macapuno*, even chocolate and caramel) made by a household in Alabang.

Marilen, Carmita and company went around the provinces in search of these crafts. Guiding them was Metropolitan Museum head **Ino Manalo** who spent Saturday touring the group around Laguna de Bay. Even for southerners, the day trip was most educational.

Backing Friends Inc. are the Ayala Alabang Village Association headed by **Bettina Pou** and Barangay Ayala Alabang headed by chair **Roland Pineda**, who stresses that all barangays must support the crafts.

The Alabang group's plan is good. Eventually they'll turn this into an Arts and Crafts Village, a new center of activity and commerce for the over 4,000 households in Ayala Alabang and surrounding subdivisions.

That's a captive market out there for our crafts. A trailblazing move, indeed.

*E-mail the author at thelma_ssanjuan@abs.pinoycentral.com*

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| Get this for free: | Hand palm massager | Hand towel | Medicine/Pill organizer | Pouch bag | Cosmetic bag | Summer tote bag | Travel utility bag |

| Set B | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Buy Beauty Exclusive Products worth*: | ₱500 | ₱600 | ₱700 | ₱800 | ₱900 | ₱1000 |
| Get this for free: | Bath towel | Atomizer set | Wooden bath set | Umbrella | Ladies blouse | Toiletries set (3 pcs) |
| For every purchase requirement of*: | ₱250 | ₱300 | ₱350 | ₱400 | ₱450 | ₱500 |
| Buy the following for only: | ₱25 Bath towel | ₱30 Atomizer set | ₱35 Wooden bath set | ₱40 Umbrella | ₱45 Ladies blouse | ₱50 Toiletries set (3 pcs) |

*single-receipt only

Promo period runs from April 1 - July 31, 2005.

Present official receipt to avail of the free and premium item. Claim premium items at the booth inside the store where purchase was made. Period of redemption is 60 days from end of promo period. Prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash.

See flyers for details!

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Per DTI Permit No. 0510 Series of 2005

TIMEX
PERPETUAL CALENDAR
WED 14

**SET** it once, and you are set for life. It automatically adjusts date, day, month and year, even if it's leap year.

**WITH** its 100-meter water resistance, this watch is never afraid of the water.

# Affordable self-adjusting watch

THE he convenience of the "set it and forget it" analog watch is now an affordable reality thanks to Timex.

With its new perpetual calendar collection, Timex spearheads the technology that automatically maintains the correct date in analog watches, regardless of the number of days in a month and whether or not it is leap year.

Set a new Timex Perpetual Calendar piece once and it is set for life. When traveling, adjust to local time and the watch automatically maintains the correct date at your destination and when you return home.

All timepieces in the new collection offer the unparalleled visibility of Timex Indiglo night-light and a seven-year battery with free replacement. They are also water resistant at 50 or 100 meters.

Timex's in-house design team gave the new timepieces a look that is both sophisticated and contemporary. Styles with round and rectangular cases have metal bracelets, expansion bands and leather straps.

Joe Santana, Timex's president and chief executive officer, says the launch of the Perpetual Calendar collection is an appropriate way of celebrating the 150-year Timex heritage. It builds a bridge between today and tomorrow.

The watches embody Timex's core values of technical competence and design excellence while maintaining the company's reputation for making quality affordable, he adds.

The Timex Perpetual Watch Collection is now available at all Timex shops nationwide.

my summer colours
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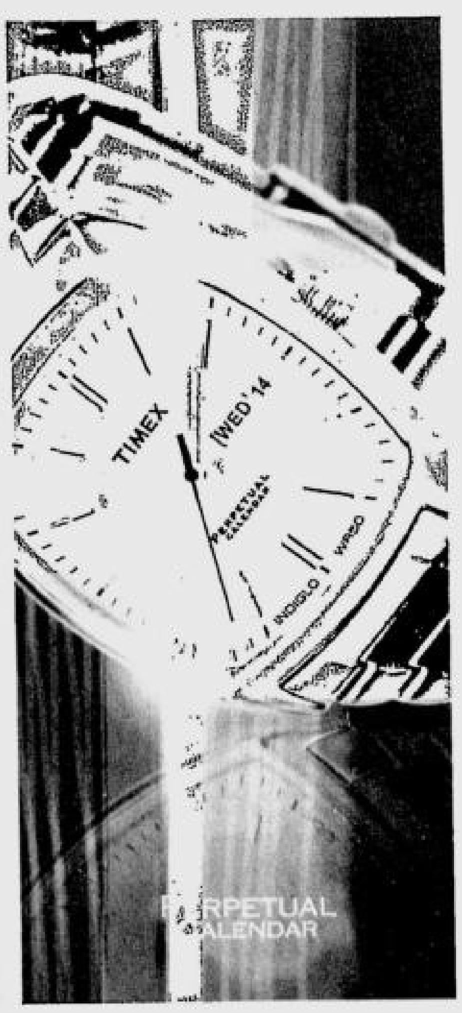
TIMEX
PERPETUAL CALENDAR

**YOU** see it in the dark because of the Timex proprietary Indiglo Night-Light.


TIMEX
WED 14
PERPETUAL CALENDAR
INDIGLO
WR30
PERPETUAL CALENDAR

LIFESTYLE

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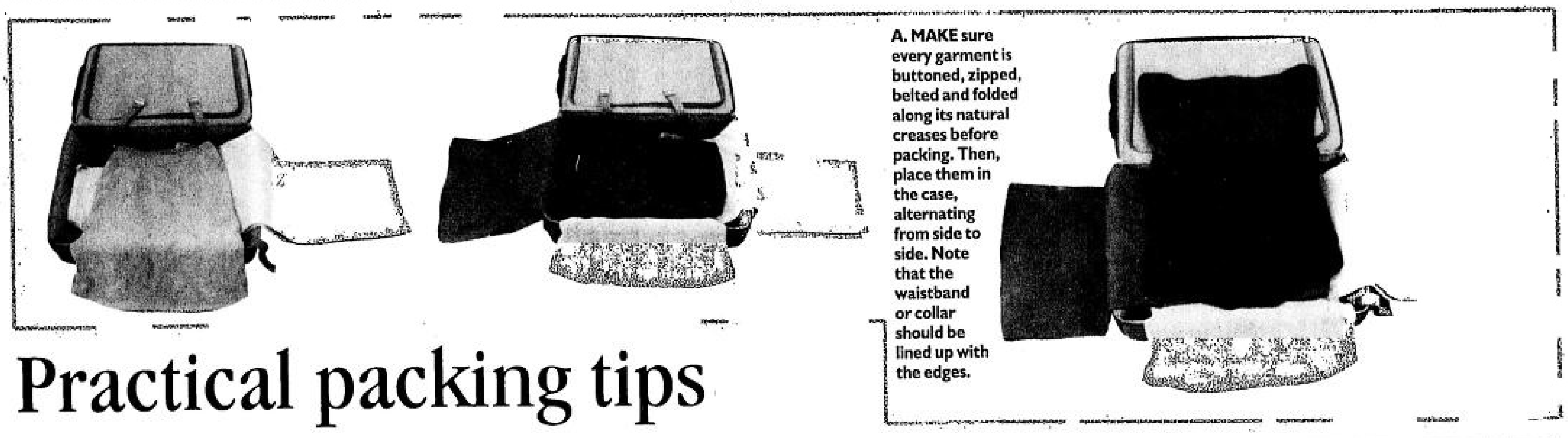


**A. MAKE** sure every garment is buttoned, zipped, belted and folded along its natural creases before packing. Then, place them in the case, alternating from side to side. Note that the waistband or collar should be lined up with the edges.

# Practical packing tips

## APPLES' PICKINGS

*Apples Aberin-Sadhwani*

IT'S SUMMER time once again and most of you are probably planning your family trips or mini-breaks. If visions of Chevy Chase in "National Lampoon's" disaster vacation movies are flashing through your minds, calm down and have no fear. There are ways to achieve a stress-free and enjoyable vacation. One such way is by packing properly and ensuring that all your essentials plus a little extra are all in tow.

OCs (obsessive compulsives) know that the first thing to do is to make a list, so whip out your pad and start making notes. Determine your destination, your purpose for traveling (business means you need a suit while pleasure means you should pack a flirty little number), the weather (sweaters for a cool climate and white tanks for a tropical paradise), and your length of stay.

At least a week or two before your trip, make a checklist of all the things or clothing you will need and make sure they are all clean and in tip-top shape.

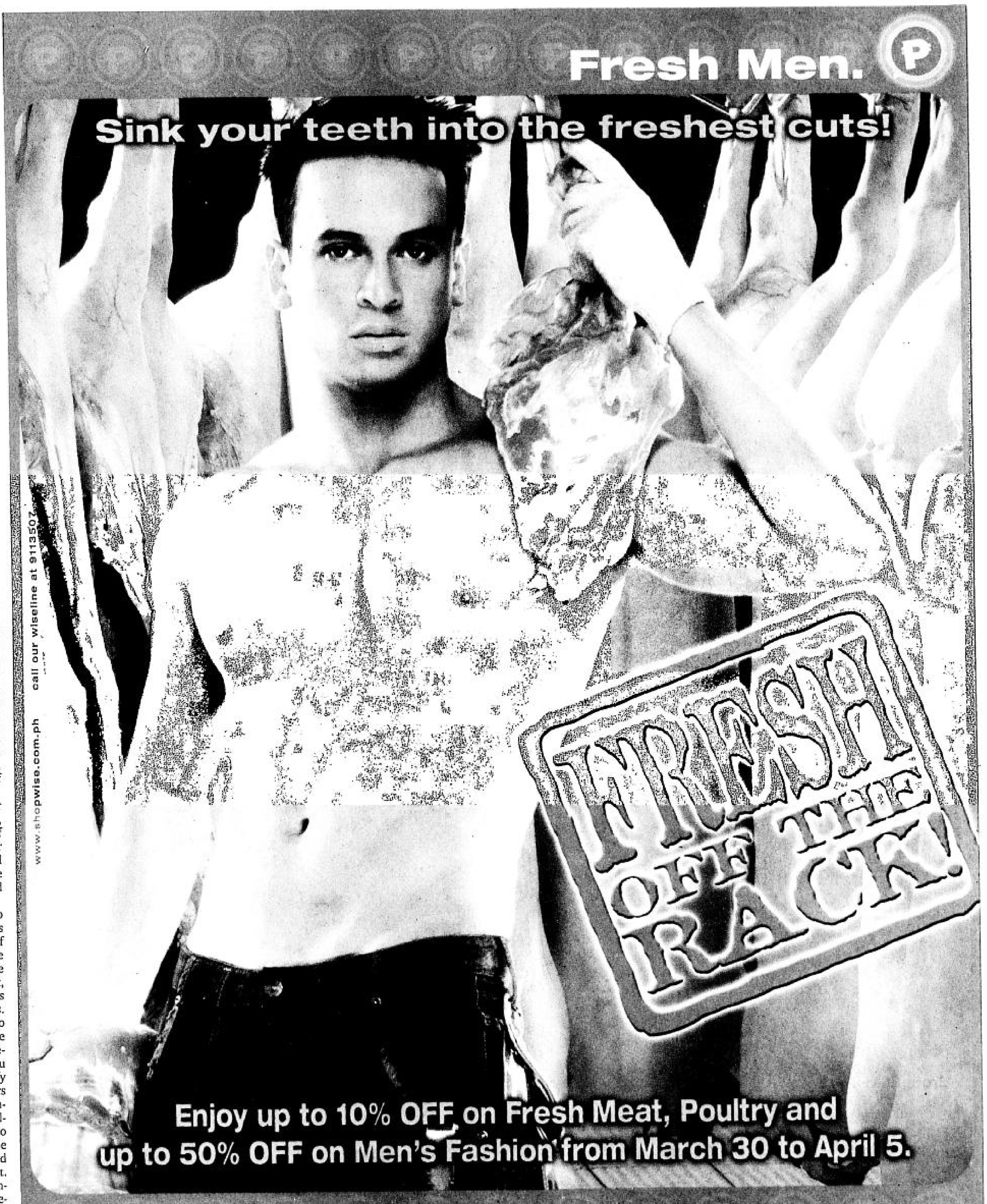
It's also a must to take your activities into account. If you're going to the beach, then you have to pack a swimsuit, cover-up, slippers and other such items. If you're planning to go to a city where much walking is required, then you have to bring comfy sneakers or loafers and a foldable umbrella. Plus, it's always a good idea to pack at least one dressy outfit and shoes for nights out. It's really quite simple once you've determined certain details.

To make things even easier, here are some practical packing tips from the Travel Club:

1. Pack clothes in the order you plan to wear them. For example, pajamas on top, followed by clothes for the next day, and so on.

2. Save time and help prevent wrinkles by packing your

PRACTICAL/E3



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# KL Fashion Week opens in May

THE STAR, L'Oreal Malaysia and Tourism Malaysia are teaming up to bring the 2005 Kuala Lumpur Fashion Week this May.

The announcement was recently made at Shangri-La Hotel Kuala Lumpur by the Minister of Tourism Malaysia, Datuk Dr. Leo Michael Toyad, together with YBhg. Datuk Steven Tan, group managing director and chief executive officer of Star Publications (M) Berhad and Mr. Jean-Francois Couve, managing director of L'Oreal Malaysia.

The highlight of the ceremony was the unveiling of the KL Fashion Week 2005-The Premier Event logo.

Present at the signing ceremony were the event sponsors, media partners, fashion designers, celebrities and members of the media.

In just two years, KL Fashion Week has become a must-see event in Asia. The affair has boosted Malaysia's image as an international fashion hub with the participation of Asia's top designers such as India's Rohit Bal, Hong Kong's Walter Ma, Singapore's Allan Chai and the Philippines' Nono Palmos from the Philippines.

"KL Fashion Week is the opportunity for all Malaysians—from renowned designers to celebrities, from fashion enthusiasts to fashion consultants, fashion stylists, fashion artistes and even ordinary individuals—to express their tastes, to make fashion statements, to be themselves," said Datin Linda Ngiam, organizing chairman of KL Fashion Week.

The event will run May 3-8, with the opening night featuring cocktails and a fashion gala.

Renowned international designers will showcase their collections at the Designer Showcase on May 4-5 at the Shangri-La Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.

Corporate guests and clients will be treated to an array of creations by top local designers at the Corporate Cocktail Nights scheduled on May 4, 5 and 6 with the themes 'Style,' 'Splendour' and 'Sophistication,' respectively.

In conjunction with KL Fashion Week, college fashion shows will be presented on May 5-6 at MidValley Megamall. Fashion colleges participating in this event are Malaysian Institute of Art, Colleges Centre for Advance Design (CENFAD), International Fashion Training Centre (IFTC), Carven Academy of Fashion, SML Fashion Academy, Limkokwing University College of Creative Technology and Raffles La Salle Institute, Kuala Lumpur.

The Star Designer Awards 2005 competition, with the theme "Movie Memories," will have 10 talented designers as contestants.

Visitors to 1 Utama Shopping Centre can look forward to the Catwalk @ The Mall on May 7-8, which will feature attractive collections by local designers themed '2005' and 'Menswear'.

Also in the calendar are the Editors Awards 2005, a new feature of KL Fashion Week.

Among local and international designers participating in the glamourfest are Sonny San, Kapas, Beatrice Looi, Carven Ong, Edric Ong, Key Ng, Melor's Apparel, Nazleen Noor, Orson Liyu, Richard Tsen, Saiful Othman, Salikin Sidek, Anggun, Thomas Chin, Yamin and Yen.

**Launch of KL Fashion Week 2005: Posing with dancers are (back row) managing director of L'Oreal Malaysia Jean-François Couve; deputy group general manager of Star Publications Datin Linda Ngiam; Minister of Tourism, Malaysia Datuk Dr. Leo Michael Toyad; and group managing director / chief executive officer of Star Publications Datuk Steven Tan.**

# Search for outstanding alumni

SAINT Joseph Academy-La Consolacion College Alumni Association has again launched its search for outstanding alumni in celebration of the school's 65th anniversary. Awards were previously given to outstanding graduates the school's Ruby, Sapphire, Golden and Diamond anniversaries. The Alumni Association will capture the significance of this event by holding an Alumni Homecoming on May 21, at 2 p.m. Homecoming Honorary Chair Jorge L. Banal and Alumni Association President and overall-chairman Corazon Zamora said that the Homecoming will also honor the school's Golden Jubilarians for graduates of 1953, 1954 and 1955 and the Silver Jubilarians for 1978,1979 and 1980. Inquiries and nomination forms for the various categories maybe obtained and submitted with supporting materials not later than March 31 to La Consolacion College, Caloocan City, c/o . Mercy Ching, awards chairman Antonio V Cruz, telefax 9338723/9316111 or awards co-chair Menchi Padilla, 3618557/ 3649248.

## GOINGS ON

**DANCE WORKSHOP.** Actress and a certified belly dancer, Regine Tolentino with Cherie Depano (Event Coordinator), will host a three-day dance lessons for kids, teens and adults. The dance workshop will be held on April 11, 13 and 15 at Regine's newly renovated dance studio in New Manila, Quezon City. For those interested to enroll, you may call 9973197 or 9403669 or text 0922-4243286. Registration is ongoing. Limited slots, first-come first-serve basis.

**ACTIVITIES.** Shangri-La Plaza's Grand atrium area on Level 2 will hold activities this April as it celebrates Kids' Month. On April 3 and 9, 2 and 4 p.m. the Alitaptap Storytellers Club presents its summer storytelling; April 10, Enchanted Kingdom will present a special show dubbed "Enchanted Kingdom: A decade of Magic;" April 16, a concert by the children from Sta. Peregrina Learning Center; April 30, Kids Act Philippines will stage "Sleeping Beauty: An Interactive Fairy-telling Musical;" April 24, a poster-making contest at the Garden Court Activity Center, Basement Level. Call 6337851 or log on to www.shangrila-plaza.com.

**ECO RACE.** Iligan City will host the "Conquer Iligan Eco Adventure Race 2005" on April 4-6. For inquiries, call (063)2216622, (063)2237763 or log on to www.geocities.com/care iligan.

**PHOTOGRAPHY SEMINAR.** The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation will hold a three-day seminar for children ages 7-12, on April 5-7, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. in Fort Santiago. Call 8435341 or 8137420.

**STARMODEL QUEST.** The Star Group of Malls has formally launched the "Starmodel Quest 2005" the annual model quest designed to develop young talents. The Quest is now accepting applications. Screening dates will be on April 18-19, at the 2/L Tradehall of Starmall, Edsa, April 24 and 25, 2/L Activity Hub, Starmall Las Pinas and on April 29 and 30 at the 4/L Tradehall of Melopolis Star. For inquiries, call 8725249, 8503845 or 7181886 local 130.

**WORKSHOP.** The Philippine Society of Librarians and Information Specialists (PSLIS) will hold a seminar-workshop on "Digitization: A Preservation Tool?" on April 21-22, at Don Bosco Technical College Gen. Kalentong, Mandaluyong City. Call 7241994, 7260931 local 253, 5279672, 0916 7120341 or email esbm@myownemail.com.

**PHOTO CONTEST.** Newspaper and magazine photographers will gather for an invitational photo contest dubbed "A Day in the Life of Calatagan," on April 8, at the Golden Sunset Resort in Calatagan, Batangas. Lensmen are tasked to photograph two of the most romantic scenes in the Philippines, the Sunset and Calatagan Life. Winning photos will be put on exhibit in a major venue in Metro Manila and in Calatagan during its town fiesta.

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- Araneta Square, Caloocan City
- Eastwood City, Libis
- Good Earth Plaza, Avenida
- Susano Complex, Novaliches
- Berkeley Square, Commonwealth

See flyers for more details.

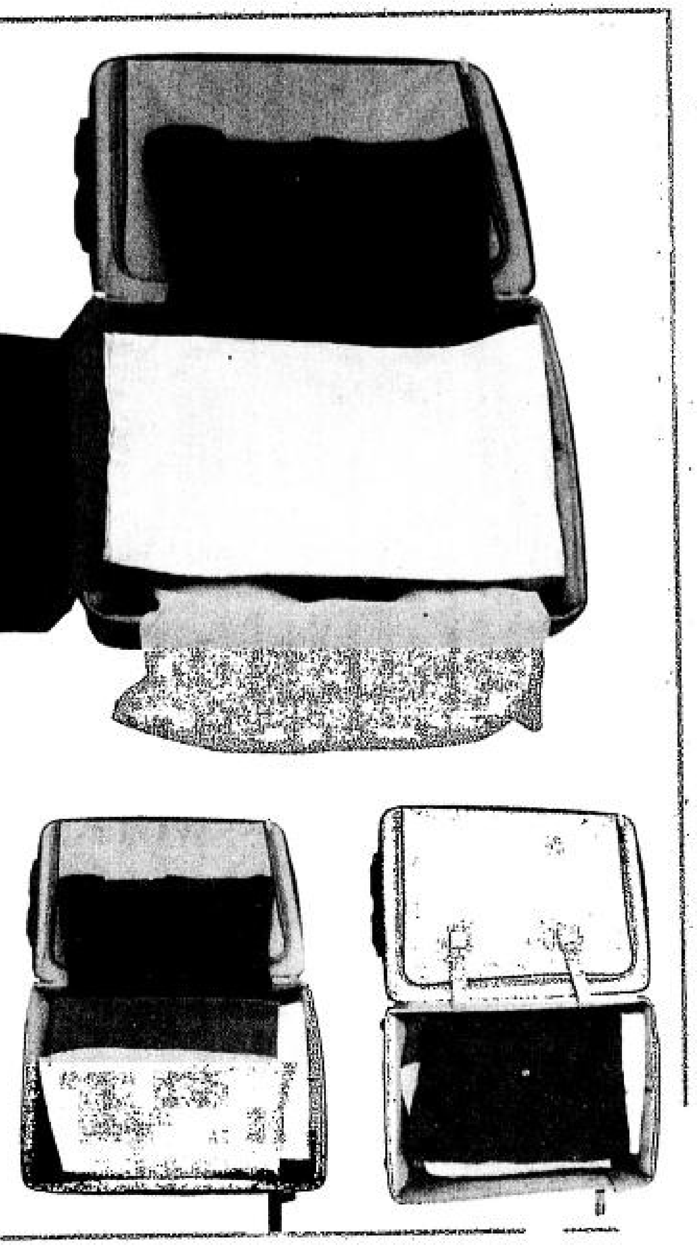
Per DTI Permit No. 0748 Series of 2005. Promo runs from April 1 to 30, 2005.

# Italian language course

THE PHILIPPINE Italian Association (PIA) holds a 40-hour Italian language course beginning April 5, every Tuesday and Thursday, 2-4 p.m. This will be held at the PIA secretariat, 2/L, Zeta Bldg., Salcedo Street, Legazpi Village, Makati. Call 8151310.

**SEMINARS.** CFS Continental Technology is offering the following seminars: Time Management (April 2, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.), Handling Stress and Pressure at Work (April 2, 1-5 p.m.), Effective Supervisory Skills (May 3, Dumaguete City), Developing Excellent Business Communication Skills (May 4, Dumaguete City), Customer Service that Works (May 5, Plaza Maria Luisa Suites, Dumaguete City). Call 8697960, 8232358 or 8234825.

**BOOK LAUNCH.** The revised edition of the bestseller "Exploring the Powers of Your Inner Mind" written by Jaime T. Licauco will be launched on April 8, at 6 p.m. at PowerBooks Live!, Greenbelt 4, Ayala Center, Makati and on April 15, 6 p.m. at Mag:net, ELJ Building, ABS-CBN Compound, Quezon City. Both launchings are open to the public. This updated edition has such useful topics for business executives, entrepreneurs and decision makers as intuitive problem solving, whole brain management and proof of the strong connection between ESP and profitability. The book gives specific steps on how the use of one's inner mind can help one make more money, anticipate and solve problems, heal oneself and others, meditate and control stress, achieve life's goals and see with the third eye.



**B. FOLD** all the extensions left hanging over the sides. Fold one garment over the other, smoothening wrinkles as you go. The advantage of this method is that each item will cushion the other, helping to prevent creases.

# Practical packing tips

From page E1

hanging clothes on the hangers they were on and covering them with plastic from the dry cleaner.

3. If traveling with the family, mix family members' clothes in each suitcase. In case one bag gets lost, everyone will still have a change of clothes.

4. If traveling with your spouse or family, pack toiletries together to avoid duplication (ex. pack only one tube of toothpaste, one can of shaving cream, one bottle of shampoo, etc).

5. If traveling with small children, put their outfits (shirt, bottom, socks, underwear) in resealable bags, one for each day. This way, the outfits will match and you avoid any arguments about what to wear.

6. Pack a plastic bag to serve as a laundry bag. Or select a suitcase that includes a "wet-pak" for soiled or wet items.

7. Carry small items such as cotton swabs, vitamins, aspirins, emery boards and nail polish in resealable plastic bags.

## Socks, underwear

8. Pack smalls items such as socks or underwear into shoes to help shoes retain their shape. Never bring shoes you have not yet worn or broken in. And whenever possible, select only one pair of shoes to coordinate with all outfits.

9. Spray your favorite perfume or cologne on tissue paper and store it in your empty suitcase. When you pack, fold the perfumed paper and clothes together. Clothes will smell good and you need not bring your bottle of perfume.

10. Valuables and important documents including money, passports, visas, jewelry, keys, medication and cameras should be on board with you.

11. List your itinerary on a tag attached to your carry-on. You only have to glance at it to confirm what time, flight and seat assignment you have, instead of constantly digging out your ticket.

12. Tape a list of what you usually pack to the inside of your suitcase. This serves as a packing checklist and also identifies your possessions, if the bag is lost and later found. Attach your calling card to the list, as well, so you have identification inside the suitcase if the luggage tags fall off.

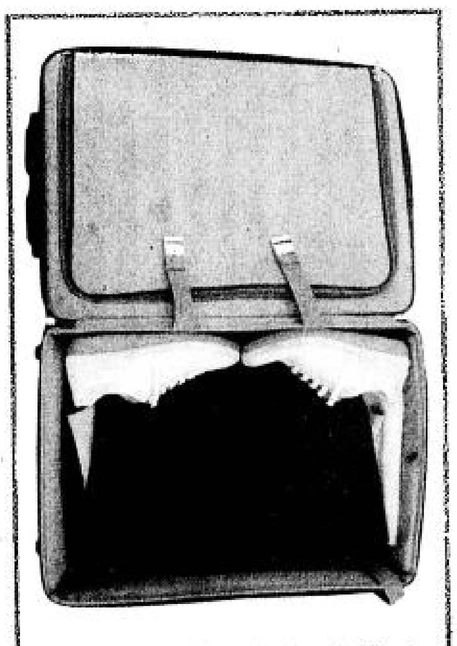
13. Leave suitcases out and open prior to departure and put essentials in, as you finish using them at home.

14. Prepare a "survival kit"—a carry-on bag that contains items like the latest bestseller or magazine, toys or workbooks for the kids, bottled water, chocolate, cookies or chips, headache medicine.

15. Try "interfolding," a method where you fold one garment over the other, smoothing wrinkles as you go. Simply follow the simple steps pictured here.

*Source: The Travel Club Travel Tips and Tricks. Travel Club, the first and only travel shop in the Philippines, carries a wide variety of luggage and travel essentials, including the following brands: Victorinox, Carlton, Samsonite, World Traveller, Ace, Timberland, Northface and Jansport.*

*E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com*



**C. PACK** shoes along the hinged side of the bag.

**D. ROLL** T-shirts, undergarments, sleepwear, socks and sweaters and fit them in any available space to help keep contents from shifting.

**E. PUT** in toiletries last so they may be used till right before you leave. Insert your kits or resealable bags in any available space, preferably in between clothing to avoid any breakage.

ALAM MO ANAK, ITO YUNG LAGI KONG DALA NUNG BATA PA AKO.
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For Spotless and Blemish-Free Skin

# A Blemish Eraser That Really *Works!*

Picture-perfect skin can now be a reality with IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment. No other procedure has ever been developed that can accomplish so much with so little risk and downtime.

Janet Ley, enjoying her clear, flawless skin.

One satisfied client, Janet Ley, relates her happiness with IPL: "I like it. I really like it because after only my second treatment, my freckles are gone!"

IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment helps banish freckles, dark spots, and spider veins without a trace. According to Janet, "I believe my freckles became more prominent as I got older. So whenever I went out of the house, I would use face powder to cover them up. But now I don't use anything anymore because they're all gone! And now people would tell me that I have really nice, flawless skin."

IPL is a gentle, non-invasive treatment that uses a broad spectrum of light to treat the face, neck, chest, back, hands and virtually anywhere that sun damage or blemishes show. It uses the Intense Pulsed Light technology to correct a variety of skin conditions such as skin imperfections: freckles, skin discoloration, signs of ageing, age spots, unsightly spider veins, broken capillaries, rosacea and other blemishes. Facial Care Centre's Dr. Maria Isabelita Joya says, "IPL's amazing results include: better skin tone, reduced blotchiness, pigmentations and broken blood vessels, smoother surface texture and a more youthful-looking skin."

To restore an overall youthful look, IPL can simultaneously treat a wide variety of skin concerns safely and effectively. It erases skin damage with minor disruption on the skin's surface unlike other conventional treatments. As another satisfied client, Dr. Ariel Torres, would attest: "I'm an avid golfer so I'm very much exposed to the sun. That's how I had freckles. And I've tried every whitening product you can possibly think of: whitening cream, whitening lotion, sunblock, scrub, I even bought this thing from Hong Kong that you're supposed to drink to lighten your skin...nothing! It lightens up your skin for a while but you can't expose yourself to the sun anymore. And for avid players like me, that's totally unthinkable! So when I tried IPL, I was really impressed. Just after the first treatment, there were already visible, dramatic results! IPL is really the only treatment that worked for me."

Dr. Joya performing the IPL Photorejuvenation Treatment on a client.

Another satisfied client, Dr. Ariel Torres.

Dr. Maria Isabelita Joya with the IPL machine.

Like Dr. Torres and Janet Ley, many satisfied clients have reported a reduction in age spots, freckles, and other skin discoloration. Most women who lead active and busy lifestyles are happy with the fact that aside from the visible improvement in their skin, they experience relatively no downtime. This means that one can actually have fairer, even-toned, glowing skin after approximately 30 minutes of treatment, and can go to work on the same day, as if nothing happened at all!

Now isn't this the best news for your skin?

To know more about IPL Photorejuvenation, just call Facial Care Centre at 892-SKIN. That's 892-7546.

**BALLET** students of Ballet Manila with teachers Sofia Sanco and Jennifer Olayvar

# Ballet Manila holds summer workshop

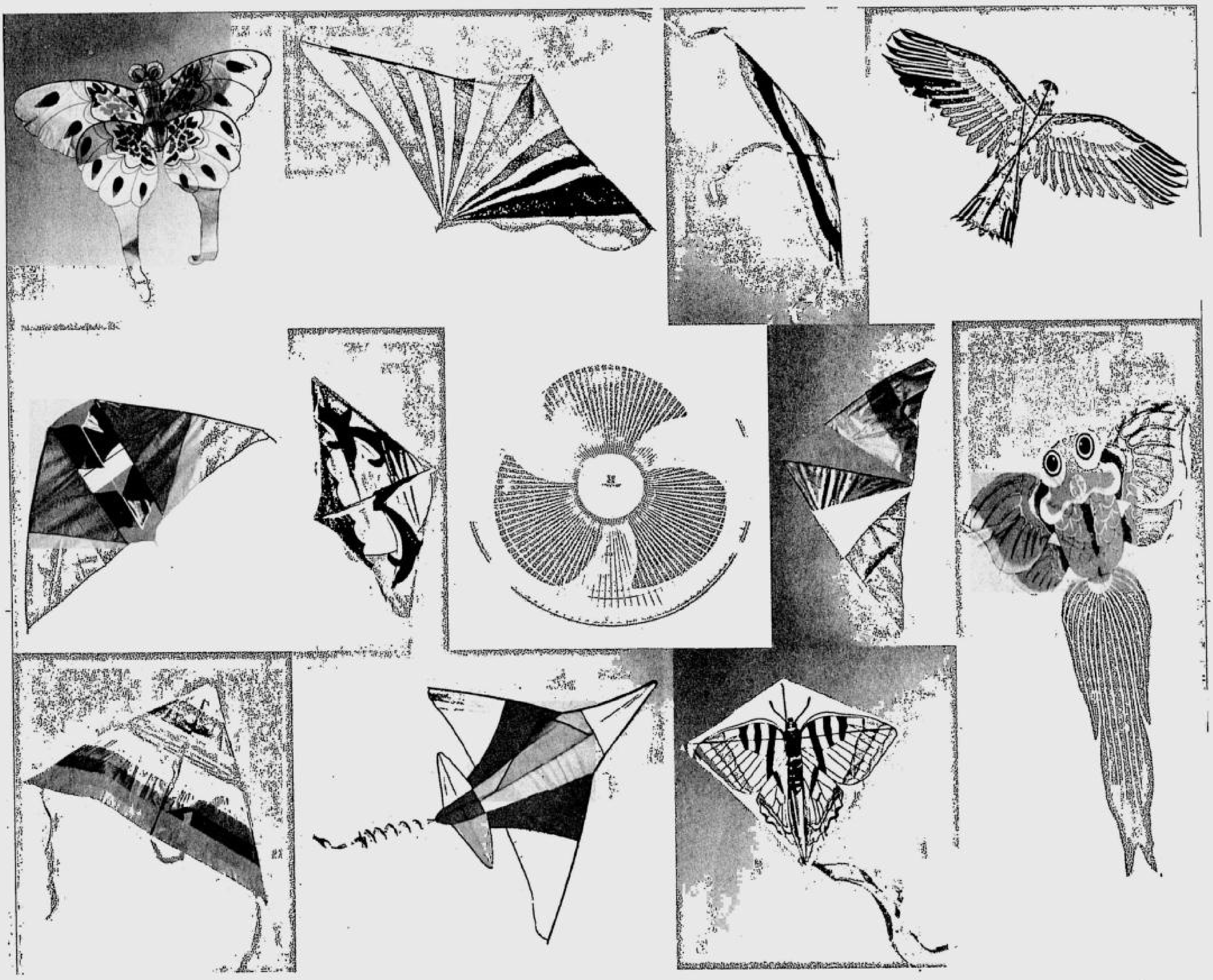
HOW WOULD you like to learn classical ballet from the country's finest dancers? Learn it straight from Lisa Macuja-Elizalde and Osias Barroso as Ballet Manila conducts its Summer Workshop starting April 4.

There are classes in four levels of ballet from beginners to advance, pointe work, variation, pas de deux/partnering, boys' class, baby ballet and adult ballet.

The summer classes will be held Monday to Friday. Aside from Macuja and Barroso, the faculty includes Ballet Manila soloist Sandra Lynn Huang, semi-soloists Mylene Aggaboo, Sofia Sangco and company members Jennifer Olayvar, Ea Torrado and Jonathan Janolo.

The workshop will culminate with a two-day recital on May 21 and 22 at Star Theatre, Star City, CCP Complex, Pasay City with the graduates performing alongside BM's roster of talents.

Call 4043086, 4000292, 5255967 and 5251584. Visit www.balletmanila.net



STANDARD ELECTRIC FAN. ANG SARAP MAGPAHANGIN. STANDARD®

SHANON Pamaong

Philippine fashion shows new styles and old vanities

RONALDO Arnaldo

JM Goulbourn

PROTACIO Empaces Jr.

# The ego has landed on Fashion Week

**Text by Cheche V. Moral**
**Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan**

WHAT is the point of the Philippine Fashion Week, really?

It is not about egos, asserted Joey Espino, who, with brother Audie and their outfit, Runway Productions, is the progenitor of the eight-year-old event. It is about pushing the local fashion industry forward in the hopes that, with the unified effort of industry movers and corporate sponsors, Philippine fashion can one day, just maybe, approximate what other countries already have.

It's not about egos. Perhaps. In a perfect world.

On gala night Tuesday, however, it seems the sentiment was lost on some designers. Amid widespread anticipation the show would yield fresh, new ideas, a veteran designer came up with a mostly "baul" collection. A few others gave in to stroking their egos with collections that, for the most part, had neither rhyme nor reason.

"How can we expect to be taken seriously?" one bewildered designer in the audience asked.

But all's not lost. Majority of the 25 designers that night came up with coherent collections. The gala got major backing from Sony Grand Wega, and was a mix of talents from Metro Manila, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo and Bacolod.

Low-key designers like Ronaldo Arnaldo and Shanon Pamaong earned applause for their works. The former's collection of gowns in somber blacks was stunning in its simplicity, spiced only by geometric strips of shimmery fabrics in equally muted colors on the bodices, some extending as trains. Arnaldo's lines were clean and highlighted his deft construction.

## Fabric treatments

While his collection did not cohere around a theme, Pamaong displayed skill at tweaking fabric. There was no fancy styling for his clothes, just a showcase of various fabric treatments that looked deceptively simple, like shirring a satin gown in sections to create flattering drapes on the body.

Cebu's Protacio Empaces Jr. showed handpainted men's shirt and cuffed cropped pants, and some needlework on dyed resortwear. Fellow Cebuano Mario Colmenares had pristine white gowns accented only with bands of black satin on the necklines.

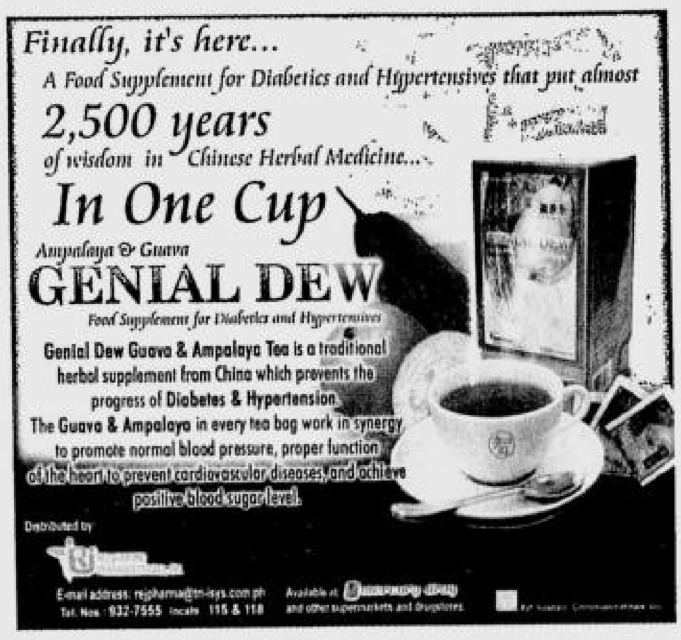
It was rather baffling that three RTW designers were included in the gala lineup—JM Goulbourn, Mike de la Rosa and Gener Gozum.

Goulbourn's collection is notable for its fresh look, where lace and denim-like blue fabric cavorted to create pretty skirts and jodhpurs. Floral peek-a-boo cutouts coyly accent several of the pieces.

In contrast, Gozum went loco by lumping several elements to-

THE EGO/ F4

MARIO Colmenares



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WACOAL NEWS

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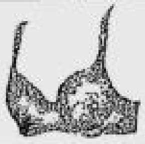
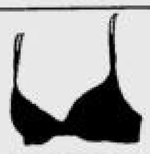
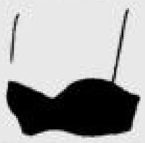
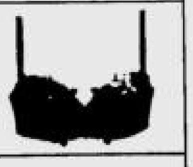
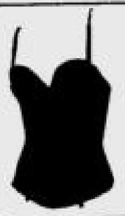
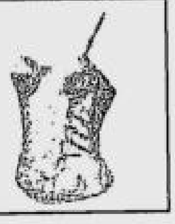
## Brassieres For Perfect Fit

**Your size is only a guide in achieving a comfortable fit!** Size refers to dimensions, not shape. As everyone has a different shape, and any person's body shape may alter from day to day, your own body shape must be considered when you are purchasing underwear. For your underwear must not only be the right size, it must also fit your shape.

Similarly, though undergarments may be of the same size, their fit varies depending on their design, fabric and cut. The size of an undergarment is still a basic guideline to determining fit; however, it is also very important that you try the undergarment on to ensure that it really does fit you comfortably.

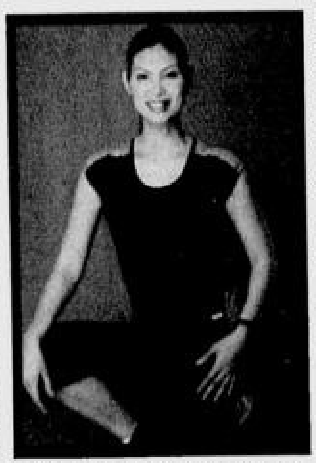
There are many bra categories. In terms of shape there is the "banded bra" which is a short bra, and the "long-line bra" (bustier) that extends to the waist and even over the stomach. There are also bras with or without under wires, with permanent or with removable shoulder straps. In addition, there are bras for certain purposes or uses, such as sports bras, junior (training) bras or maternity bras. Bras come in range of cup sizes, which include the full-cup that wraps the entire bust, the 3/4 cup that shows some cleavage, and the half-cup that shows the top half of the cleavage.

By mixing different combinations of the shaping performance, functionality, cup shape, design, and fabric of the bra, the bra will yield a variety of performances.

| **T-shirt Bras**<br>This type of bra features a smooth outline and seamless cups for an invisible look under clothes. Seamless bras are very versatile for many different clothing options. | | **Lacey Bras**<br>This type of bra is lavishly adorned with delicate lace that heightens one's femininity. |
|---|---|---|
| HB 3343  | **Full Cup**<br>Offers full coverage and provide better stability and firmness with its bone and side panels, thereby minimizing unsightly bulges. | SB 4501 |
| SB 7923  | **3/4 Cup**<br>Gently lifts the breasts and shows some cleavage. The deep front center cut is perfect for low or V-neckline tops. | SB 4304 |
| SR 3833  | **1/2 Cup**<br>This bra is elegant and versatile, suitable for any occasion or outfit. This bra has adjustable straps, which can be worn as a crisscross, halter, or even without straps. | IB 5816  |
| SB 4711 | **Non-wired**<br>Simple yet elegant; designed for a comfortable fit. | SB 2301 |
| OB 7500  | **Long-line**<br>Long bras extend to the waistline, and come in strapless style for backless dresses. Provides a smooth silhouette from bust to waist. | IB 7018  |

## How to be physically fit

by Ms. Abbygale Arenas - de Leon



Developing self-confidence can be as easy as ABC. The key is to be physically fit. To be physically fit, all it takes is discipline and everything else will follow. Just follow these 7 basic guidelines and you're a step closer to a more confident you.

- ***Drink plenty of water*** - It's a universal fact that water is the best, cheapest, and the most natural beauty agent. Water flushes out all our body's toxins. It makes us feel refreshed and ready to start the day.
- ***Watching your food intake*** - Don't go for crash diets. Go for food substitution. Imagine you were served a platter of fried pork chops and a cup of steamed rice. Why not split the food into two. Share it with your companion. Include vegetables and fruits (like-banana, a guilt-free food) in your meals. Eat fiber-rich foods; they really help.
- ***Valuing vitamin supplements*** - It doesn't hurt to shell out a little for vitamin supplements. This way, you're sure to get the essential nutrients that your body needs. Women are more likely to benefit form Vitamin E (beauty vitamin), Vitamin C (for the immune system), Calcium (for the bones) and vegetable supplements.
- ***Exercise regularly*** - You need not go to the gym for a regular work out to banish those unwanted bulges. Try this trick: Do everything fast! Of course, enrolling in the gym or choosing a sport for a hobby would be a big help. But if you are too busy for that, having daily activities would be enough.
- ***Importance of relaxation and sleep*** - It's all about time management. Make it a habit to get 8 hours of sleep. It is also valuable to pamper yourself like going to the salon. Another form of relaxation is proper breathing. Just inhale and exhale deeply for ten times and you will feel a lot better.
- ***Observe correct posture*** - Right posture is important. It gives you what we call, the visual poise. Wearing the proper underwear like Wacoal (which follows the international standard measures) helps to maintain a good posture and exude confidence. If you were wearing a bra that doesn't fit your actual bust size, you would feel uncomfortable. Sometimes, you'll have a tendency to slouch. Hence, you should fit the bra first before purchasing.
- ***Have the right attitude*** - Having the right attitude is, of course, very important. Be realistic. Aim for something, but remain realistic. Have a healthy mind and be disciplined. It all starts in the mind. If you want to be physically fit, set your mind and soul to it. Cheer up! It's never too late for fresh beginnings.

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# Jun on Joe

A UNIQUE photo exhibit, "The Legacy of Joe Salazar," with images by ace photographer Jun de Leon, words by Jenny Peña and prints by Epson Philippines, is ongoing until April 8 at the InterContinental Manila lobby.

Complementing the exhibit is a strictly invitational fashion show billed as "Joe Salazar—A Prelude," which will be held April 3 at the InterContinental's grand ballroom.

Hailed by many as the "King of Philippine Fashion," Salazar succumbed to cancer on Feb. 14, 2004.

Salazar loved nature and painstakingly interpreted its myriad wonders in his work. Flowers and leaves were favorite accents, either traced in beads and embroidery or hand-fashioned in fabric, often by the designer himself. His creations are treasured for their outstanding design and fine craftsmanship.

Salazar is credited for the resurgence of the terno, the butterfly-sleeved national dress of Filipino women.

Of himself, he said. "I am a man of few words. The beauty that I see, the varied emotions that I feel are expressed in my creations. I thrive best in serene surroundings."

The exhibit, among the events lined up for this year's Philippine Fashion Week, is spearheaded by InterContinental Manila and Runway Productions.

PARADISE RECAPTURED

*Daughter of Eve,*
*let me clothe your*
*nakedness*
*With the softest*
*silks and gossamer*
*dreams,*
*Caressing every*
*curve, reflecting*
*distant stars*
*Gray ice in a rain*
*forest.*

DESIRE

*Green I want*
*you green*
*With wispy black*
*feathers that glint*
*In the light, like*
*an exotic bird.*
*Poised*
*to take flight.*

KALEIDOSCOPE

*Burnt orange, deep magenta, hot pink*
*Aqua blue, fiery red, mango yellow,*
*Colors that thrive in my secret garden.*
*Flower, fruit, stone, sunset*
*Homing birds, black clouds,*
*Hush... evening falls.*

SUNSET

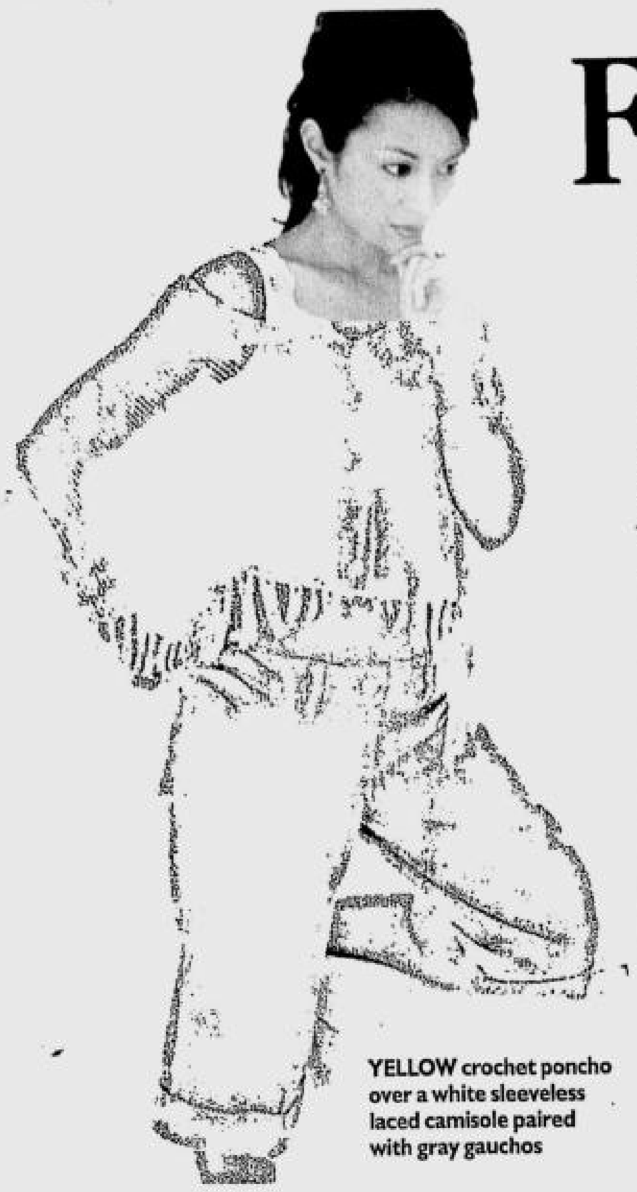
*Soon it will be dark*
*I'll catch the sun before it goes,*
*Scoop its vibrant colors for you to wear.*
*Wait for me, please*
*I promise I will be there.*

# Fun in the sun

BAYO'S new summer collection is all about fun in the sun. But at the same time, it exudes femininity and sophistication with bursts of color.

Inspired by images of Jackie O. strolling along the shores of the Caribbean, the collection gives off a fresh, relaxed, vibrant vibe. Bayo's clean and classic lines are now complemented with more exciting pieces. Trendy and urbane elements are fused together to come up with a casual but fancy, practical but modish collection.

This include sequined tees, ruffled skirts, flirty summer dresses, crochet ponchos and gauchos accessorized with candy-colored flip-flops and modernized straw bags. There are shorter lengths, drop waists and lots of details.



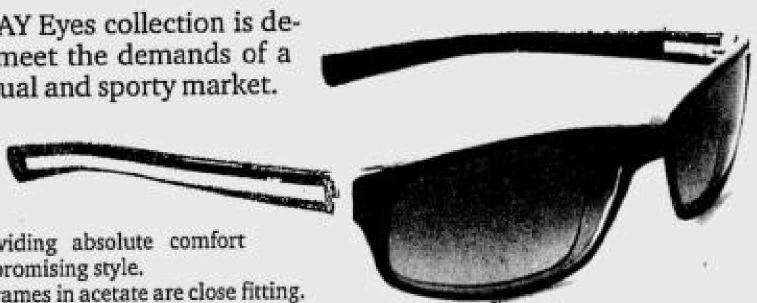
**YELLOW** crochet poncho over a white sleeveless laced camisole paired with gray gauchos

**BLUE** bikini top in spandex fabric paired with denim shorts

**BLUE** cotton ballerina shirt over a white crochet bikini top and denim shorts

**YELLOW** crochet bolero over white sleeveless tee paired with denim wrap-around mini; and white cable sweater over yellow bikini top in spandex paired with blue-checkered Bermudas

# Framing the young and sporty



THE REPLAY Eyes collection is designed to meet the demands of a young, casual and sporty market.

Frames use the latest materials and feature avant garde designs, providing absolute comfort without compromising style.

The Pilot frames in acetate are close fitting. They are short and squared with bold lines. Rectangular frames have a sporty feel. The light, slender lines of the metal culminate in a double bridge and the arms have logo detailing.

Frames for men or women are always in steel, having the lines of a mask but consisting of separate polycarbonate cylindrical lenses attached to the sides by the unambiguous "R".

In the collection Classic, masculine colors such as black, anthracite, brown and palladium white, are offset by more feminine tones: red, aubergine, tortoiseshell and Havana brown.

REPLAY Eyes frames for men and women are always in elegant steel.

# Polarized shades for visionary lifestyle

MARKET studies show there are a growing number of people with preference for sunglasses with Polarized lenses. Polarized sunglasses are worn mostly by outdoor enthusiasts like sportsmen, fishermen, boaters, professional drivers and surfers. Recently, more sporting activities such as golf and snow skiing have also adopted the use of glare-reducing polarized sunglasses.

Sunglass with Polarized lenses eliminate by 99 percent the blinding glare that the ice and snow create without interfering with vision. It enhances the vision. It makes colors brighter and look more natural.

Polarized lens have an auto-reflective quality which reduces the reflection of the sun on the eyes. They absorb 100 percent of ultra-violet rays of the sun.

How do the polarized lens work? The reflection of the sunlight on the water or flat surfaces creates horizontally polarized light waves. Polarized lenses use vertically oriented "polarizers" that neutralize one another, reducing the glare.

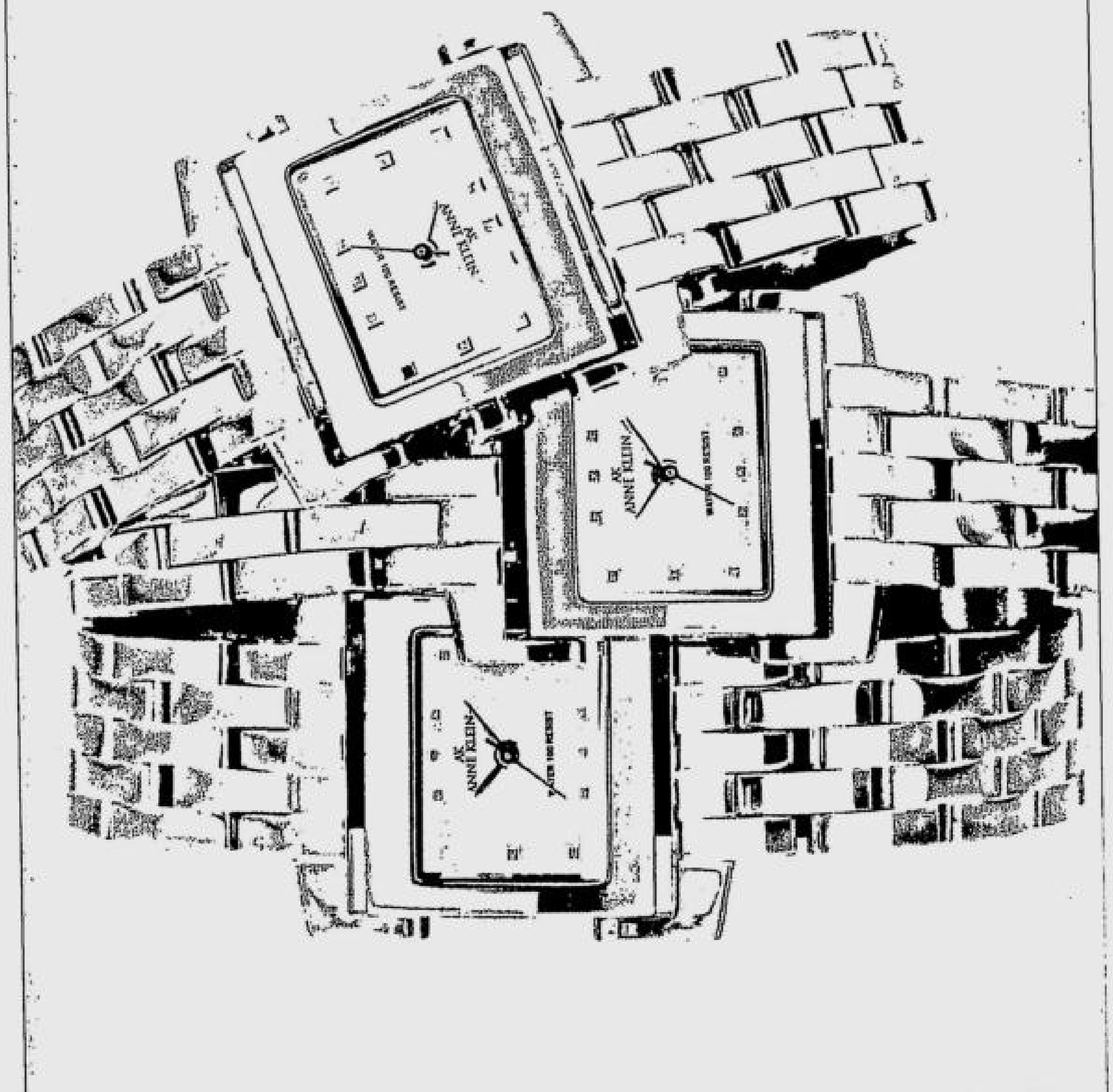
With more and more people engaging in a very active lifestyle, Optoline Inc. has launched a sunglass brand that will serve the needs of people.

AXN Polarized Shades are reasonably priced sunglasses equipped with Original Polarized Lenses. The wearer will see more vibrant colors, distinct contrasts and higher definition.

AXN Polarized Shades Collection fuses fashion and function. Its sporty design is fused with polarized lens technology. It is lightweight and fits snugly on different facial shapes. It comes in metal and acetate.

AXN Sunglasses are also available in lightweight scratch-resistant PC lenses or polycarbonate lenses.

**AXN Polarized Shades are equipped with Original Polarized Lenses that allow for more vibrant colors, distinct contrasts and higher definition.**



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**ESAC**, strictly un-individual

**CLAIRE** Jarantilla's "cardboard" bustier

**FRINGE** without benefit by Richard Papa

**PROBLEMS IN PROPORTION.** Aldrich Aparicio (left) and Eric de los Santos

# The ego has landed on Fashion Week

From page F1

gether, resulting in a chaotic visual mess. Major beadworks on the gowns competed with gargantuan ruffled boleros, feather stoles and huge satin bows. Nothing a prudent editing can't fix, perhaps?

Visual appeal, meanwhile, was where Edgar Allan succeeded, with his pink-white-black gowns. White satin pieces were accented with big black pailletes. One black bustier piece had a giant pouf pink skirt and white satin overlay that extended into a train. Another variation was a white column number with ball-accented tulle wrapped around the waist. If anything, the collection seemed to sit well with the audience.

Jasmine Castelo's patently indulgent designs included a beekeeper dress, a sculptured steel-wool top and a sloppily deconstructed jacket-slash-cape that was so glaringly out of place on gala night.

The other lesser-known designers showed promising collections, albeit with some noticeable construction hitches—puckerings, bunching zippers, poorly crafted card-board-like bustiers. Perhaps if they can put as much work on the execution as they do on the design—and cast egos aside—then there is truly hope for Philippine fashion to move forward.

**GENER** Gozum's go-go girl

**EDGAR** Allan wins in *pasiklaban.*

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# LIFESTYLE

ORANGE wood-buttoned cut-up linen jacket (P1,995); kiwi-green lace knit cami (P319.95); Vise 2 low-waist khaki twill shorts (P395); beaded fringe neckpiece (P495); and silver metal belt (P695)

## Sorbet-colored summer

Beat the heat with catchy pieces in fruit-salad hues

STORY ON PAGE G2

HOT-PINK baseball logo tee (P715.50) and Vise 2 low-waist khaki twill shorts (P395)

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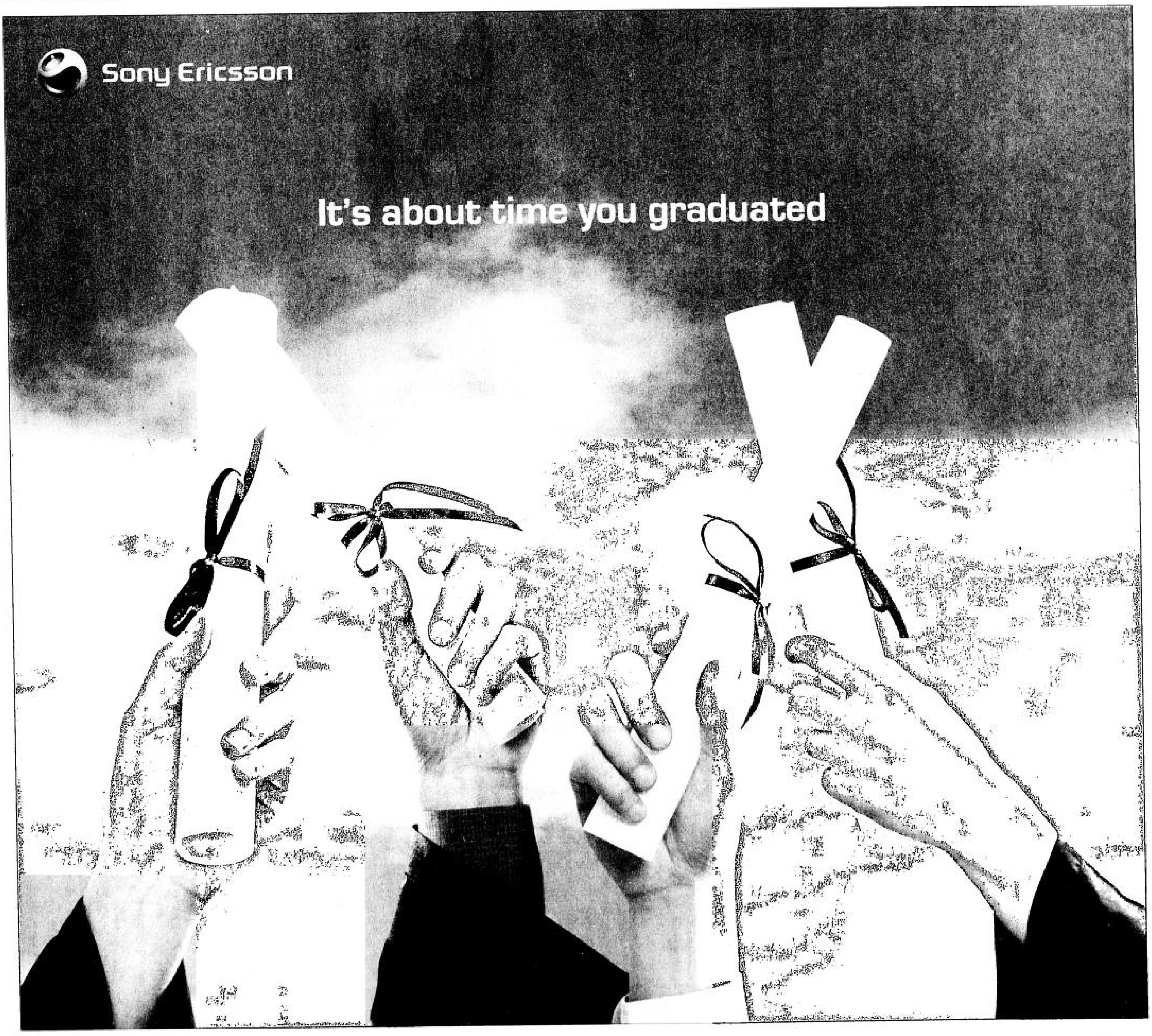
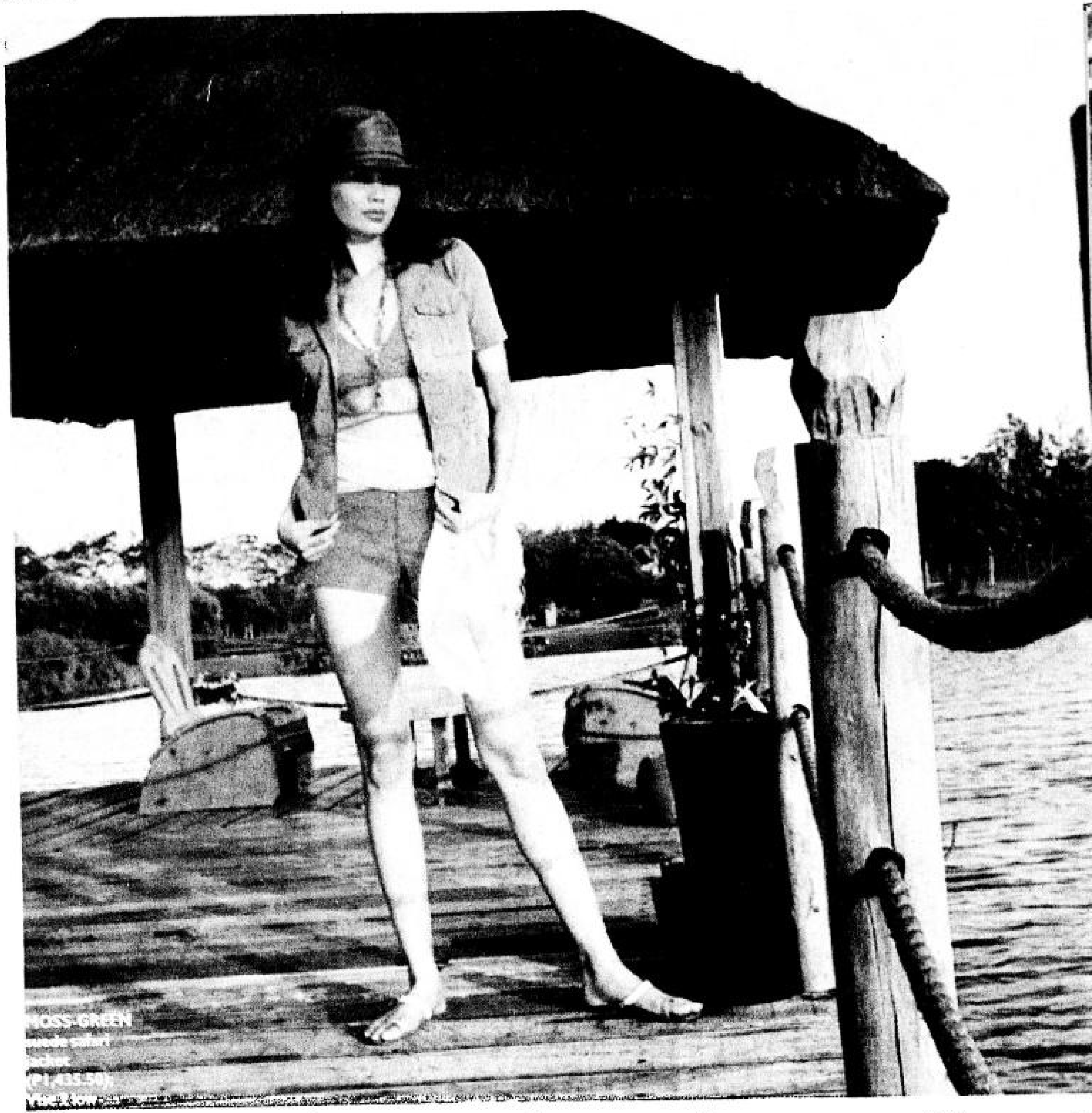
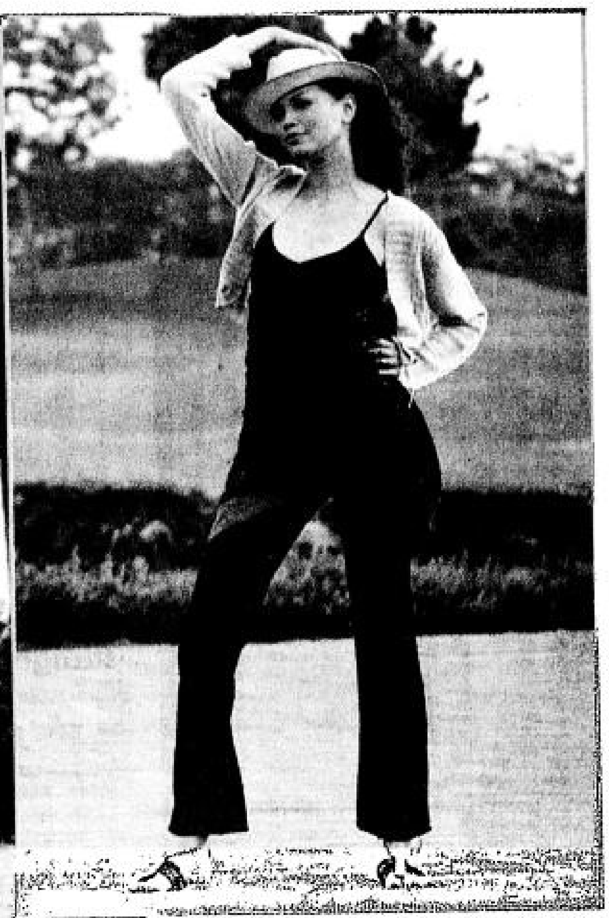


Sony Ericsson

It's about time you graduated



**MOSS-GREEN** suede safari jacket (P1,435.50); Vise 2 low-waist watermelon twill shorts (P395); watermelon bikini top; stone necklace (P995); and kiwi organza scarf (P595)



**BLACK** spaghetti-strap beaded mesh top (P1,345.50); pink crocheted cardigan (P1,255); and dark-blue low-waist denim jeans (P895)

MODEL: ANA LLOREN
MAKEUP BY XENG ZULUETA FOR SHU UEMURA
HAIR BY ARCHIE RODRIGUEZ
SHOT ON LOCATION AT STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB,
CABUYAO, LAGUNA

VISEVERSA IS LOCATED AT 3/F SM MEGAMALL A;
2/F RUSTAN'S TOWER; 3/F RUSTAN'S MAKATI; G/F RUSTAN'S ALABANG;
2/F RUSTAN'S HARRISON PLAZA; 2/F RUSTAN'S GATEWAY MALL;
2/F RUSTAN'S ROBINSONS PLACE MANILA. VISE 2 IS AVAILABLE
AT 2/F THE BOULEVARD IN SHOPWISE LIBIS, QC

# Sorbet-colored summer

**Text by Cheche V. Moral**
**Photos by Chito Vecina**

*We're having a heat wave,*
*A tropical heat wave,*
*The temperature's rising,*
*It isn't surprising*
*She certainly can can-can.*

NOTHING quenches the thirst of a parched wardrobe than summer pieces that seem like they were picked especially for a fruit-salad bowl. A kiwi-green cami here or a pair of watermelon-red shorts there will perk up existing withered basics from seasons past.

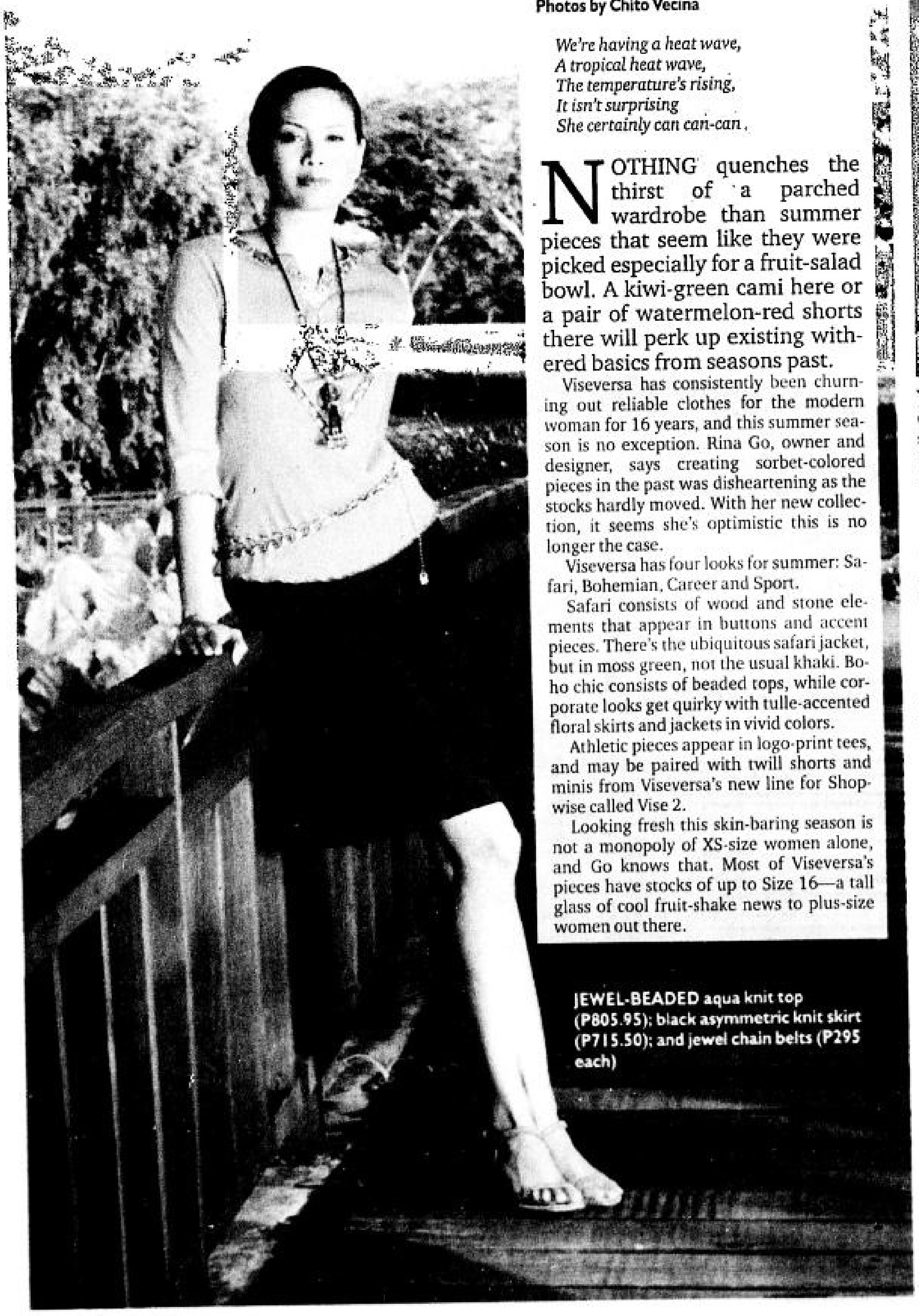
Viseversa has consistently been churning out reliable clothes for the modern woman for 16 years, and this summer season is no exception. Rina Go, owner and designer, says creating sorbet-colored pieces in the past was disheartening as the stocks hardly moved. With her new collection, it seems she's optimistic this is no longer the case.

Viseversa has four looks for summer: Safari, Bohemian, Career and Sport.

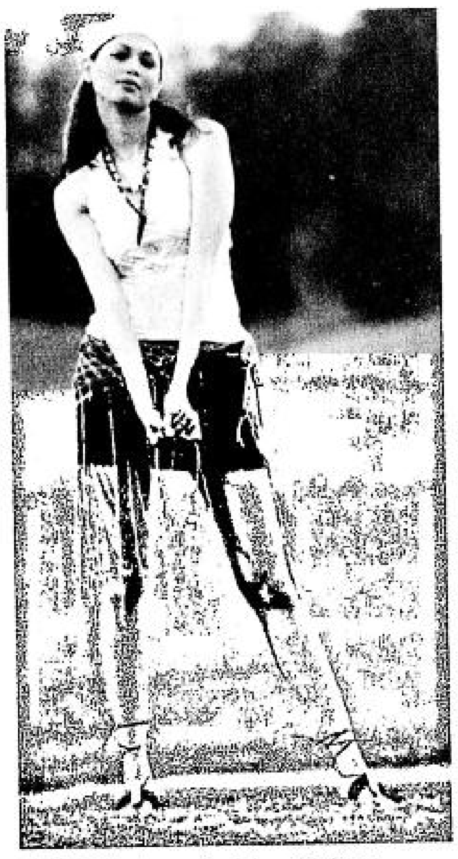
Safari consists of wood and stone elements that appear in buttons and accent pieces. There's the ubiquitous safari jacket, but in moss green, not the usual khaki. Boho chic consists of beaded tops, while corporate looks get quirky with tulle-accented floral skirts and jackets in vivid colors.

Athletic pieces appear in logo-print tees, and may be paired with twill shorts and minis from Viseversa's new line for Shopwise called Vise 2.

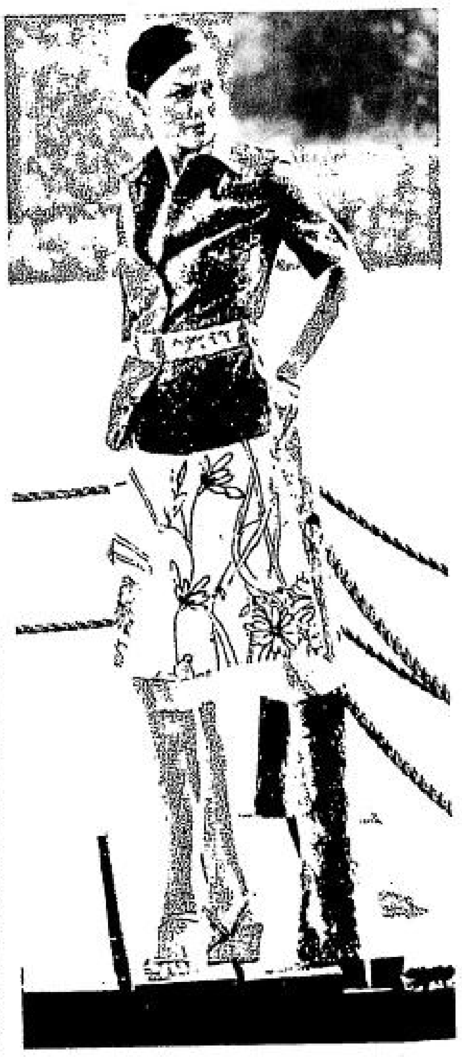
Looking fresh this skin-baring season is not a monopoly of XS-size women alone, and Go knows that. Most of Viseversa's pieces have stocks of up to Size 16—a tall glass of cool fruit-shake news to plus-size women out there.



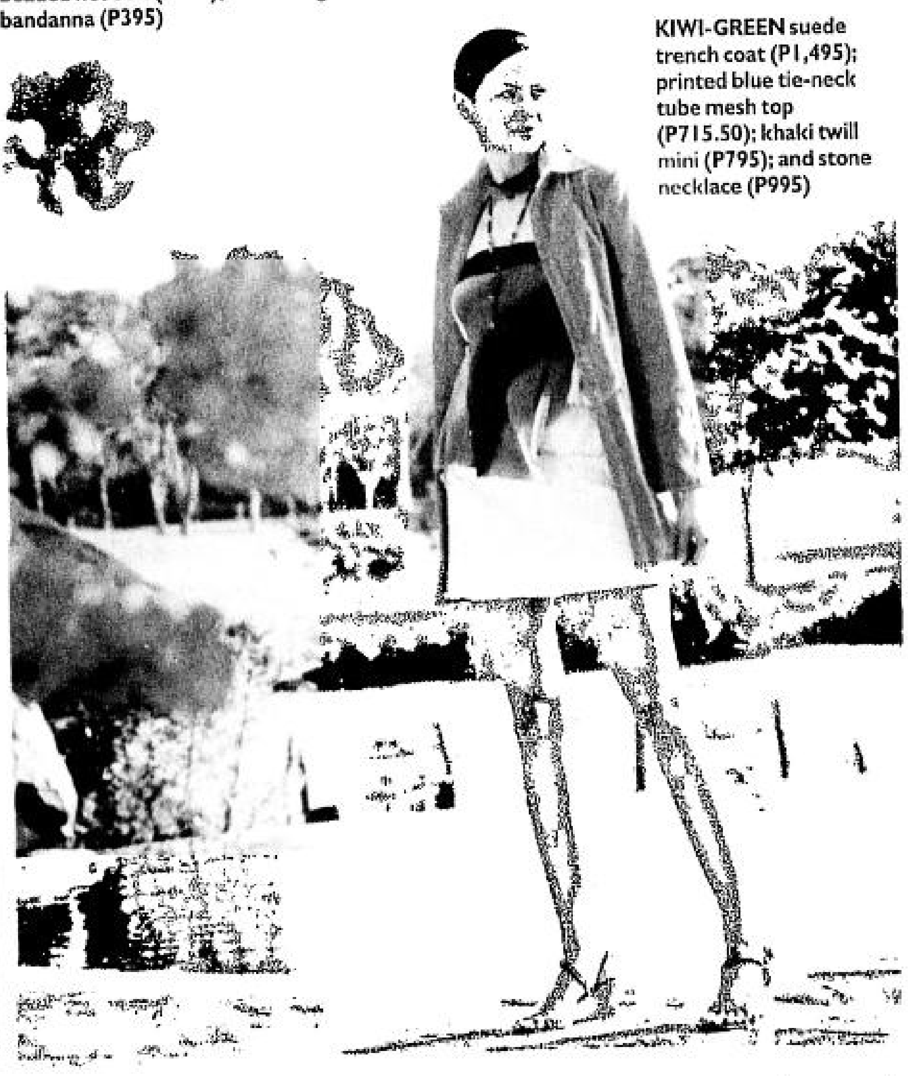
**JEWEL-BEADED** aqua knit top (P805.95); black asymmetric knit skirt (P715.50); and jewel chain belts (P295 each)



**YELLOW** halter embroidered knit top (P715.50); Vise 2 dark-blue twill mini (P445); stone necklace (P995); khaki wooden-beaded net belt (P395); and kiwi-green bandanna (P395)



**AQUA** suede jacket (P1,395); black-and-white floral skirt with tulle (P1,095); stone necklace (P995); and seashell belt (P595)



**KIWI-GREEN** suede trench coat (P1,495); printed blue tie-neck tube mesh top (P715.50); khaki twill mini (P795); and stone necklace (P995)

**BEIGE** see-through long-sleeve V-neck top with drawstring details at the waist

**CREAM** long-sleeved crochet cardigan with bold floral back accents

**OLIVE-GREEN** sleeveless crochet top with drawstring and wooden-bead accents

**PINK** see-through crochet top

# Crochet-crazy

CROCHET has always held a certain cachet—partly bohemian, partly homespun, partly vintage, and, yes, totally chic.

It's making a comeback today at SM with playful tunic tops, shrugs, and cardigans in exquisite patterns and colors. Drawstring and wooden bead accents give it an elegant ethnic edge.

Always a great statement for fashion independents, the crochet top collection is available at the Boutique Square of all SM stores.

**FUCHSIA** long-sleeved shrug with floral-patterned crochet back worn over a white top and denim pants

**POWDER-BLUE** bell-sleeve crochet tunic top with drawstring details

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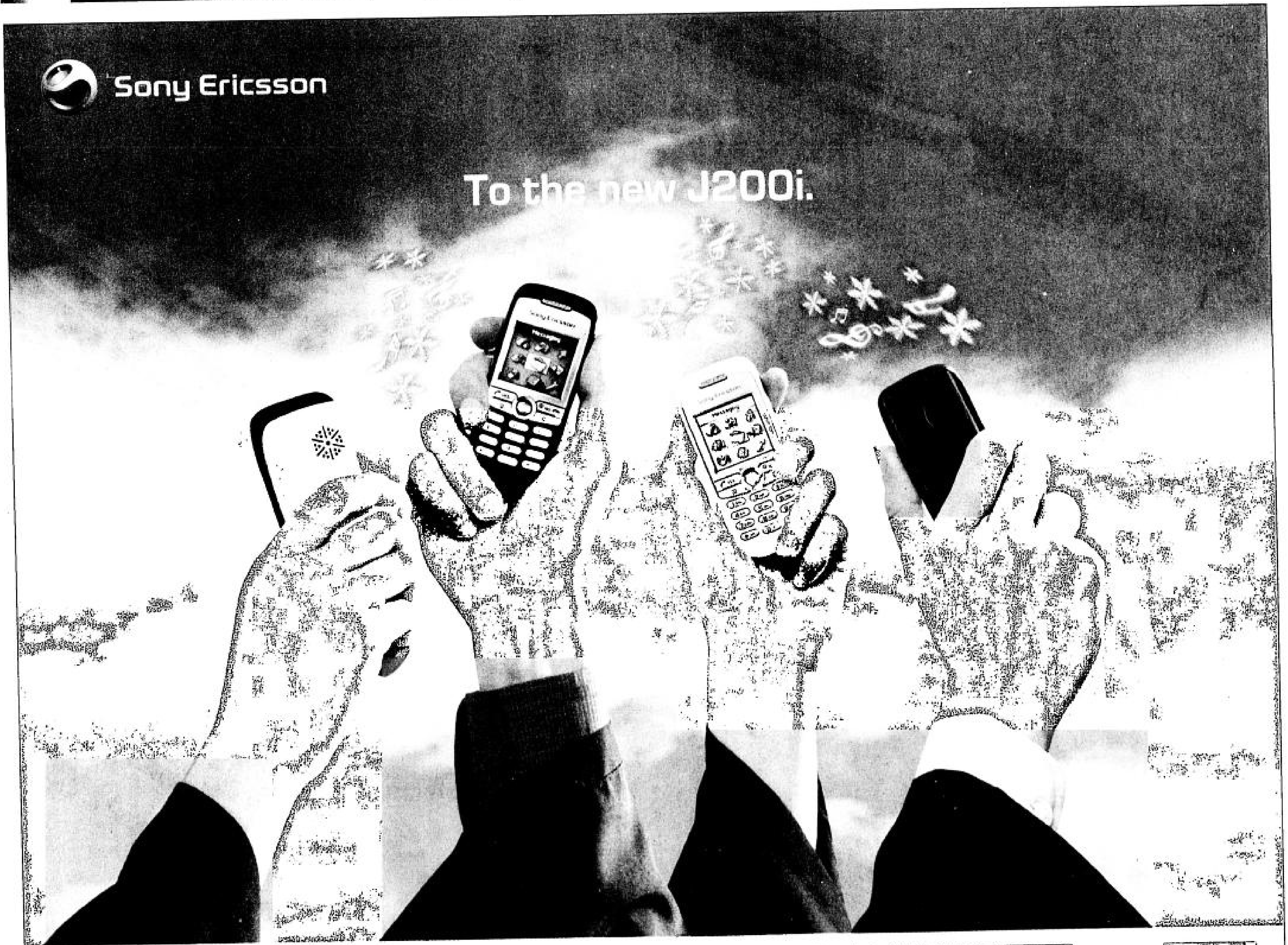
PUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES VOL. 2
SM City BACOOR
05 ALBUM TOUR
April 1 5pm
Center Mall



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**SURF Connection collection**

**LAS PALMAS collection**

# Explosive beachwear

THIS summer, Triumph International turns up the heat with its new swimwear line.

Choose from the Rain Forest line, which throbs with the intense colors of a tropical paradise. Or go for Nouveau Riche—ornate black prints accented with metal accessories. There's also the young and upbeat Las Palmas line with its dynamic style and color pairings.

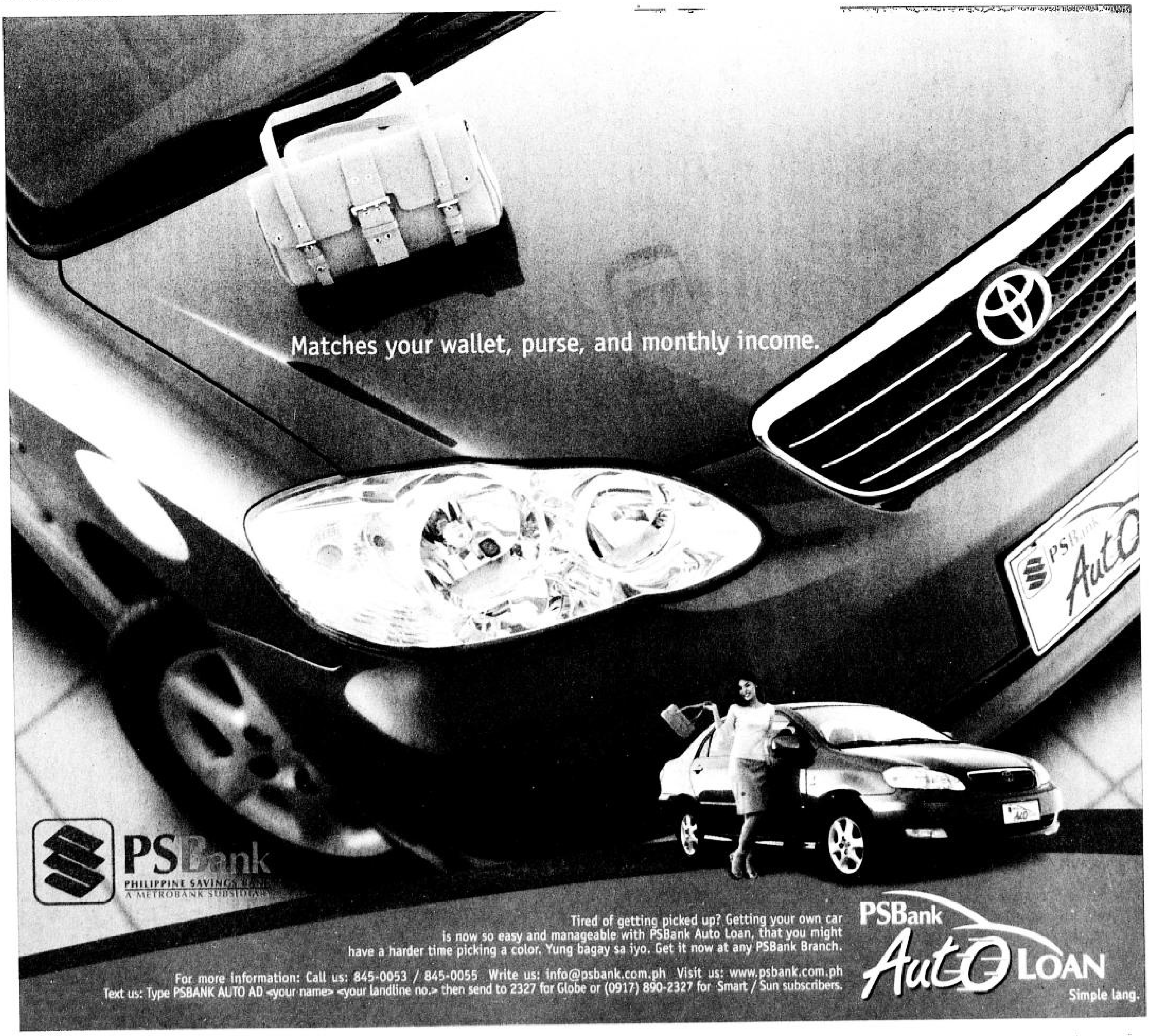
Take your pick from maillots and two-piece suits, or get into frilly, flirty tops paired with solid black bikini bottoms. Suits shimmer with details like cutout orchids growing in interesting places.

For a younger vibe, get into some Beedees. This body-conscious collection is made up of The Surf Connection in happy accents of tangerine and turquoise. Cuba Libre, meanwhile, vibrates with Latin heat in fabrics that spell rhythm and energy.

*Available at Triumph counters in leading department stores nationwide.*

**CUBA Libre collection**

**RAIN Forest collection**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APR '05
NO. 10

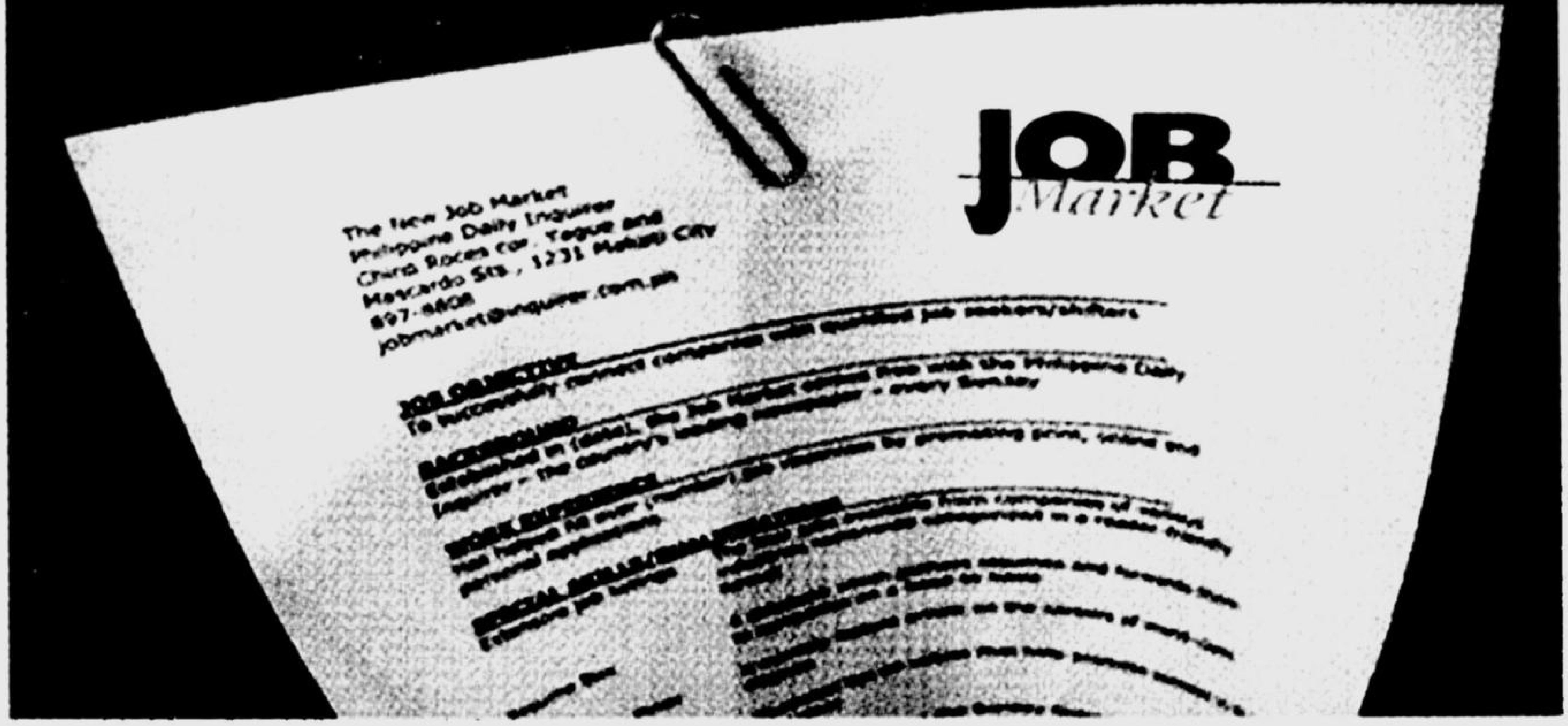
Ornusa Cadness

# it's showtime!

Photography **TOM EPPERSON**
Digital Retouching **DIX**
Styling **JENNI EPPERSON**
Makeup **XENG ZULUETA** for Shu Uemura
Hair **FELICITY SON**
Maillot, **LOUNGERIE By Celine Lopez**

# Presenting the classifieds with the most comprehensive resumé.

# The new Job Market.



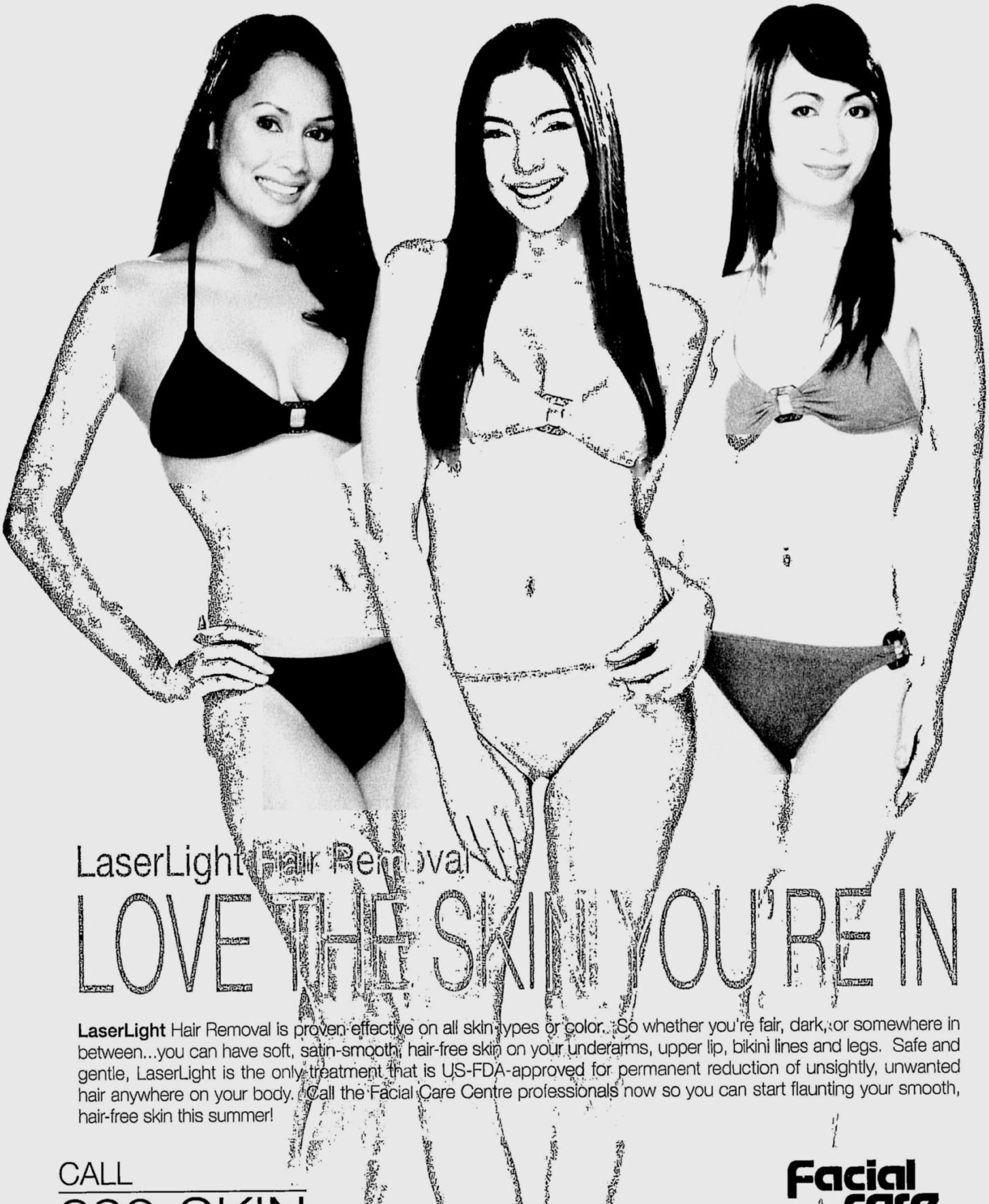
Now nationwide and with more extensive job listings, the new Inquirer Job Market goes beyond just classified ads. With its own People at Work section - containing career information, professional advice and in-depth analysis of workplace issues as well as tips (and tricks) of the trade - the new Job Market's most important credential is to help you find and get the job you want.

**Find the right job and how to get it with the paper that goes beyond classified ads.**

*Nationwide job listings*
*Updating resumé databank*
*Professional advice*
*Career guides*
*Job hunting tips*
*Workplace Issues*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOB Market



## LaserLight Hair Removal

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**Facial care centre**

MAKATI ORTIGAS QUEZON CITY SHAW ALABANG BINONDO CONGRESSIONAL PAMPANGA [illegible] CEBU [illegible]

creative director
**JENNI EPPERSON**

design
**DIX**
fashion associate
**KATRINA CRUZ**
columnist / writer
**AMINA ARANAZ**

Philippine Daily Inquirer
Lifestyle Editor
**CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO**

copy editor
**ELVIRA MATA**

# *Hala Bira!*

That was my state of mind two weeks ago.

From the last quarter of 2004 until March this year, I taped 13 episodes of my shopping show ***Good Finds*** for the Lifestyle Network, finished 3 issues of **JUST SHOP**, covered gazillons of press events, attended most of my friends' parties, attended to my family's needs, collaborated with **Aranaz** bags for my **Ati-atihan** bag collection and shopped till I dropped. Whew! I've got more energy than Gary V. and I'm not even diabetic. How? Why? What the hell was I thinking?

I was running on passion. Passion to release the shopping goddess in me, to be creative and to attend to all my commitments to family, friends and business. I got so used to the hectic pace, I was working like a pooch. But like anything done to the extreme, something's gotta give. And when it does, it hurts.

Two weeks ago, it happened. I got sick. I was irritable, moody and I started eating **McDo's Prosperity Burger** -- every night. I was a bad girl.

I knew the only way to get out of this rut was to sit back and relax. So I packed my bags for a brief sojourn in one of my favorite places in the world—**Nami** in Bora.

Although this was supposed to be a brief trip, packing was not something I did in a rush. It tested what little patience I had left, thinking of what to bring or not. Finally, I decided to bring everything I liked.

Two suitcases and a beauty case later, I was set. Got my cocktail dresses, several 2-piece bikinis and my latest sexy maillot from **Loungerie by Celine Lopez**, **Culte Femme** zebra print bandana, jeweled flats from **CMG**, **Get Happy** accessories, my latest copy of **Teen Vogue** and **Kérastase** hair products. I was off to the beach. Yahoo!

I believe in maintaining balance in life. So I work hard and play harder. I live, eat and breathe my passion. Then I take time out and do nothing. It all works out in the end.

For a week, I rested at the beach, and then when I got back, I danced almost every night at **Embassy Super Club** and ate well (soup, salad and I even took my vitamins). Now I'm a happy camper ready to tape my second season of ***Good Finds***, shoot and write for **JUST SHOP**, cover **Philippine Fashion Week**, attend to my daughter's summer workshops, spend a few days with my hubby at **Mandala Spa Resort Villas**, and hang out with friends. I'm back in harness and I love it!

Passion fuels my creativity and makes me feel alive. It inspires me to experience new things and meet new people.

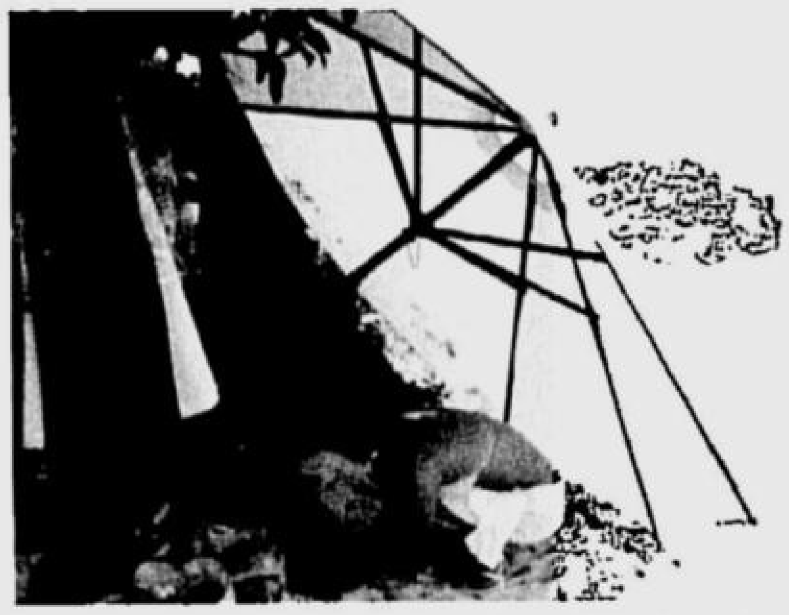
I'm unpacked, all set and ready for my close up... it's showtime!

Jenni Ep.

**The breakfast of champions.** *Tapsilog*, with side order *longanisa* and Knorr seasoning.

**Welcoming committee.** Nami's resident manager, Irene Maravilla and my butler, Kitz.

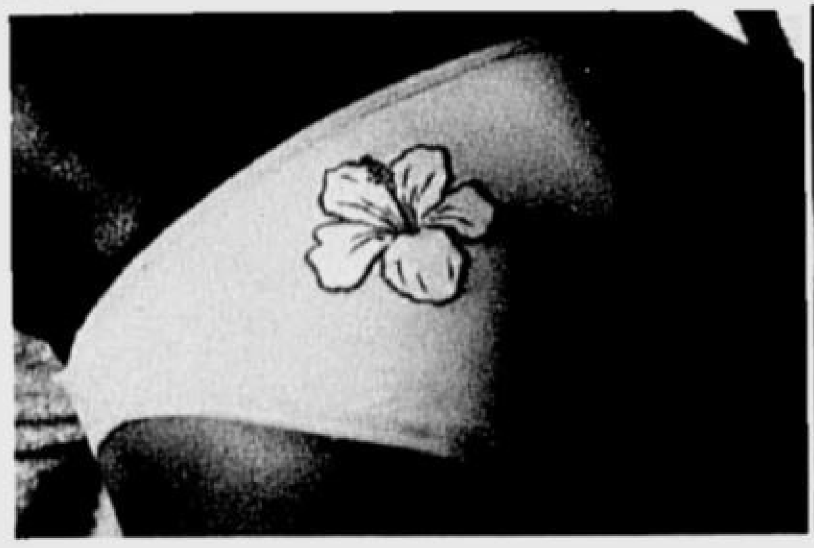
**Absolute, Pucci and Platinum.** Perfect beach treats.



**Parasol dreams.** Kat's make-shift dressing room.

**Just Shoot Me.** Local photog, McSandro Rieta captures the real beach babe.

**Nami bunch.** L to R: McSandro, Tanya, the author, Kat, Leo and Celine.



**Beach bum.** Leo Posadas' punchy trunks.

**Island Spice.** Hot and sexy, Celine and Kat.

I'd love to get your comments or suggestions. E-mail me at jenni_shops@inquirer.com.ph or text INQUIRER JSHOP NAME/CITY/MESSAGE to 2207 for Globe or 283 for Smart subscribers.

# Strip Tease

Take it all off this summer, but leave something to the imagination. Strike a pose in tantalizing cover-ups. The naked truth? It's fun, flirty and absolutely sexy.

skirt

Swimsuit, P2,700, skirt, P1,588, both from Phax, **BETTER THAN BARE; MANGO** necklace, P599; **JALILAH JEWELRY** bracelet, about P350.

Photography
**McSANDRO RIETA**
Styling **JENNI EPPERSON**
Hair and Makeup
**LEO POSADAS** of
Essensuals by Toni & Guy
Model **CELINE LE NEINDRE** of
Admate
Assistant Photographer
**ARNOLD JUMPAY**
Shot on location at **Nami Private Villas, Boracay**
Special thanks to
**Lex Ledesma** and **Tina Tinio**

dress

Phax dress, P1,500, **BETTER THAN BARE; FREEWAY** swimsuit, P595; **CMG** earrings, P399.

caftan

**KATE TORRALBA** caftan, price available upon request; **TOPSHOP** bikini top, P645; **GET HAPPY** earrings, price available upon request.

shawl

**FREEWAY** shawl, P765; Zimmermann swimsuit, P6,850, **RUSTAN'S; GET HAPPY** necklace, price available upon request.

# Escape Packing, Downtime Dressing

By **LEICA R. CARPO**

Being a people person, you'll never hear me channelling Garb's famous "I just want to be alone." I prefer cities to suburbs, aerobic classes to running. I also would never watch a movie by myself.

However, being constantly surrounded by 50 of my best friends, though fun, could be quite draining. Once in a while, I need to escape and recharge by hibernating all by my lonesome.

I am a sucker for creature comforts which make roughing it out of the question. When I was young, the back of my dad's pick-up was my ride of choice. These days, air-conditioning and zero dust are minimum requirements for my mode of transport.

I learned to pack right the hard way. I once found myself in a remote getaway minus essentials like my trusty tweezers or my skin care kit. So I always pack my beauty and grooming essentials first.

Next I plan my wardrobe. I choose a color theme to match my mood or destination or both. For me, escape packing is the opposite of party dressing.

My personal philosophy is to look less like a tourist and more like a local. This requires advance research like checking a guide book or the Net for weather, temperature and what the locals are wearing. Often, they know what's best and what works for their climate and culture. Nothing could be sillier then wearing a slinky, see-through number in the dead of winter.

Rule of thumb when dressing for travel? It's always better to be practical than theatrical. If you're saddened by the prospect of not being able to wear your latest e-bay purchase of designer stiletto boots in your island getaway, take heart, winter is just eight months away. Fall is even closer.

Travelling is the best excuse to shop so pack light and appropriately. There is nothing worse then dragging a ton of luggage while island or airport hopping. Remember, always leave space for shopping. Or take an extra bag.

Illustration **RINA ALBERT**

Packing is an art that I have not perfected. Packing for an audience of one -- myself -- is a fab opportunity to dress down, wear pjs the whole day and not feel guilty about it.

Nevertheless, I think pjs should be, to some degree, an extension of your wardrobe. They're not just a bunch of old shirts from your college days which you're better off using as rags -- unless this is your wardrobe personality.

I'm not suggesting that you chuck all your college shirts and only wear **Natori** and **Victoria Secret**'s latest collection to bed. If you don't want to be caught dead in it — don't wear it.

So don't go spending all your hard–earned money on shoes. Spare a little something for these "sweet nothings." After all, you want a complete wardrobe not something half-done.

For my "secret island" getaway, I pack the following essentials: **Lancôme** latest sun block UV Expert DNA shield, **Natori** cotton pjs, **Havaiana** flip-flops, white embroidered caftan from Moroccan flea market (**Souk**, **Itsie Bitsie**, **Lily** and even **Tyler** have their own fun variations of this multi-purpose wardrobe staple), **Roxy** and **Zimmerman** bikinis (**Rustan's**, **Tabu**), crushable straw hat, **Lululemon** yoga pants/shorts (**Aura Athletica**) and my **ipod** mini. Everything else is negotiable.

These days, getting from point A to Z can be quite gruelling unless you've got money to burn and travel first class.

Here's a tip from my best friend Malu: Bring fun, comfort food en route to your destination – from **M&Ms** to roasted cashews to *butong pakwan* – they make the journey go so much faster. Throw in a couple of trashy novels, a digi-cam -- you'll never know who or what you'll see -- and you're all set.

A thought to consider from former **"Sex and the City"** stylist Patricia Fields -- "Jeans and T-shirts are the blank palette; accessories are the brush and paint. They tell a story: you can be a cowboy, a hooker, or a society lady."

**Packing for an audience of one— myself — is a fab opportunity to dress down, wear pjs the whole day and not feel guilty about it.**

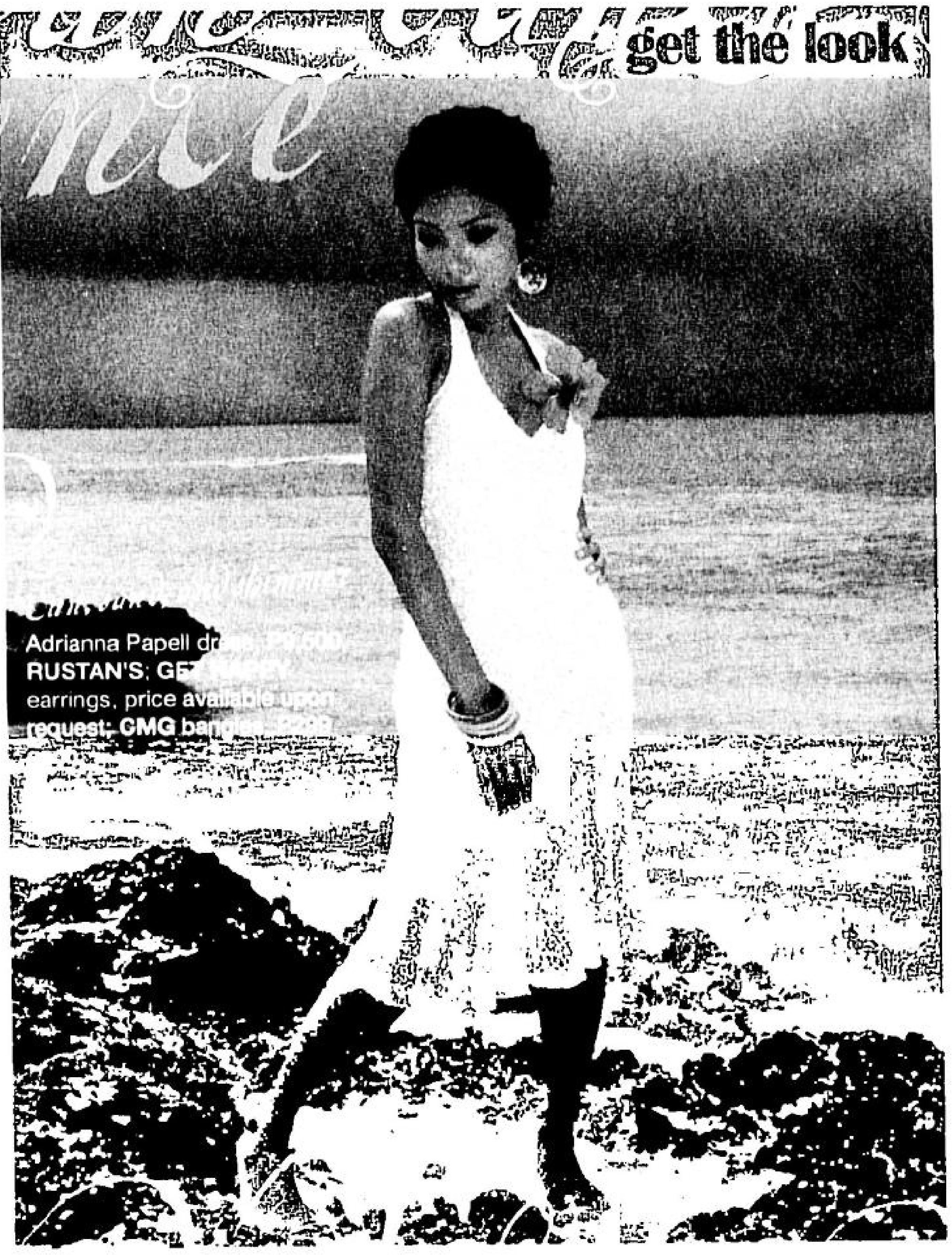
# Sun-Dance

Swing to the hottest beat in pretty summer dresses. Practice your moves, put together a lei, and pack one (or all!) of these must-haves because you're going dancing from sunup to sundown.

Photography
**McSANDRO RIETA**
Styling
**JENNI EPPERSON**
Hair and Makeup
**LEO POSADAS** of
Essensuals by Toni & Guy
Model **TANYA ESCALER**
Assistant Photographer
**ARNOLD JUMPAY**
Shot on location at **Nami Private Villas, Boracay**
Special thanks to
**Lex Ledesma** and
**Tina Tinio**

*Underwater rocks*

**LAUNDRY** dress, P15,450; **KULTURA** brown bangles, P129.75 each; **CMG** gold bangle, P299; **SM DEPARTMENT STORE** pouch, P199.75.



*[illegible]*

Adrianna Papell dress, P[illegible],500; **RUSTAN'S; GET HAPPY** earrings, price available upon request; **CMG** bangle, [illegible]

*Punch drunk love*

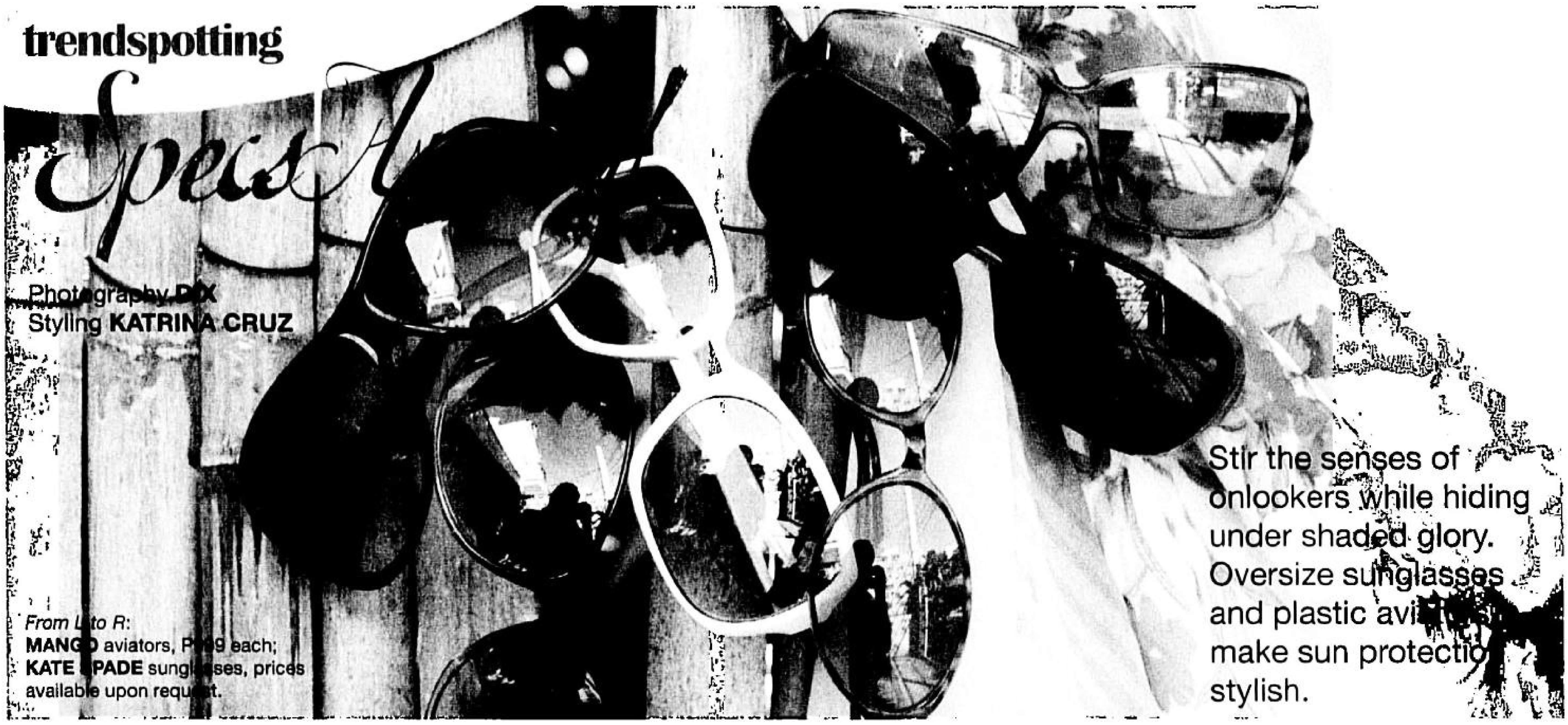
**LAUNDRY** dress, P10,450; **CMG** earrings, P[illegible]99.

*Rhapsody in blue.*

**SM DEPARTMENT STORE** dress, P1,199.75; Culte Femme scarf, price available upon request, **RUSTAN'S; GET HAPPY** bracelet, price available upon request.

**trendspotting**

# Specs A

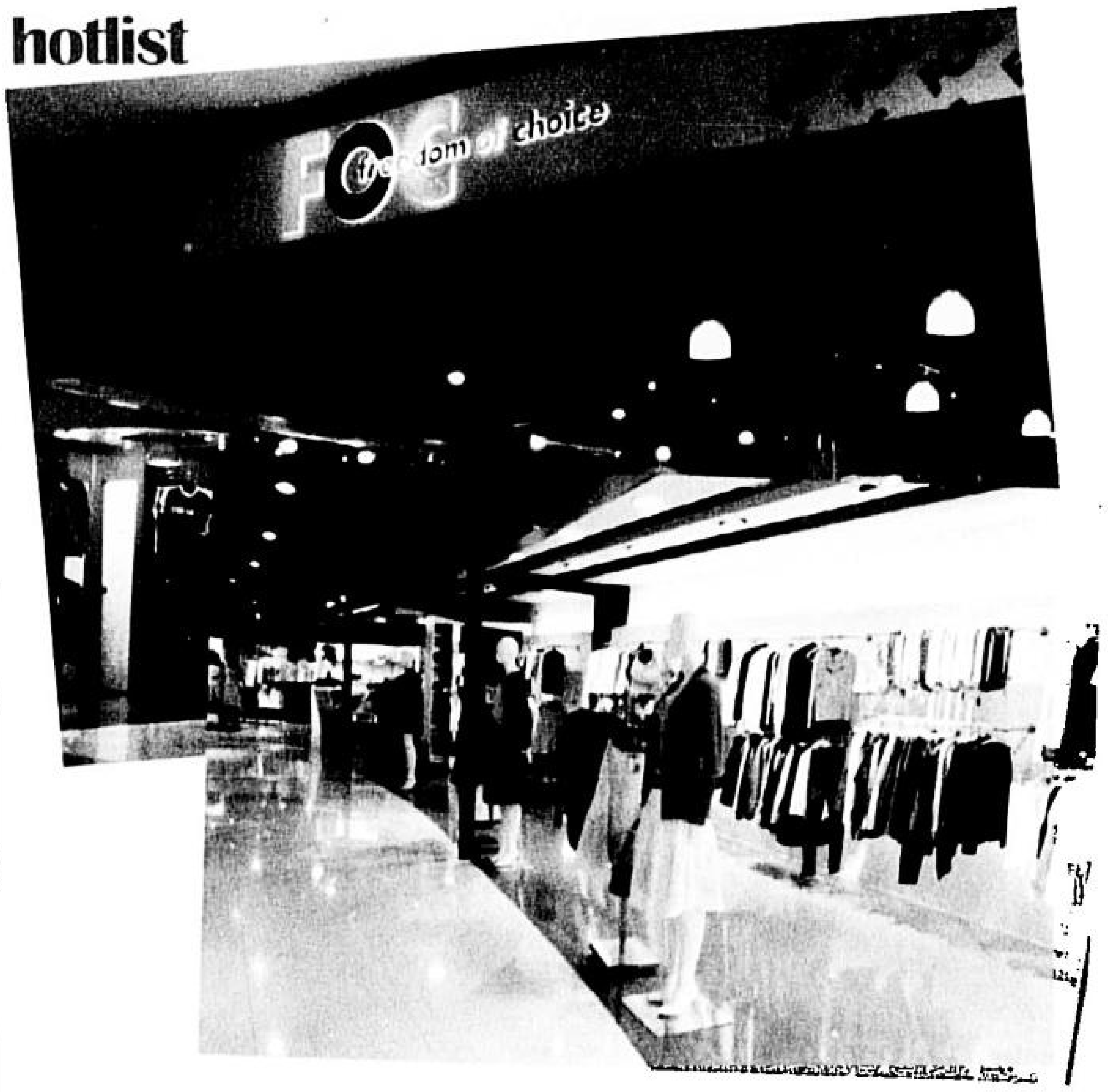


Photography D[illegible]X
Styling **KATRINA CRUZ**

*From L to R*:
**MANGO** aviators, P[illegible]9 each;
**KATE SPADE** sunglasses, prices available upon request.

Stir the senses of onlookers while hiding under shaded glory. Oversize sunglasses and plastic aviators make sun protection stylish.

**hotlist**



# F.O.C.

2nd floor Activity Center, Market! Market!

A fashion stop that is guaranteed to cater to every bit of your fashion need, F.O.C. opens with 12 happening stores that dare you to be different and to pursue a personal style. Scour each of these stalls that fit your budge and your mood:

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Funky Finds
Girl Shoppe
In Store
Hallway
152 Lily
Yellow Box
Venetta
Underground
Hot Kisses
Icing
2Be

Whether you're an aspiring fashionista, a casual dresser, or an adventurous soul, here, it's all about freedom of choice.

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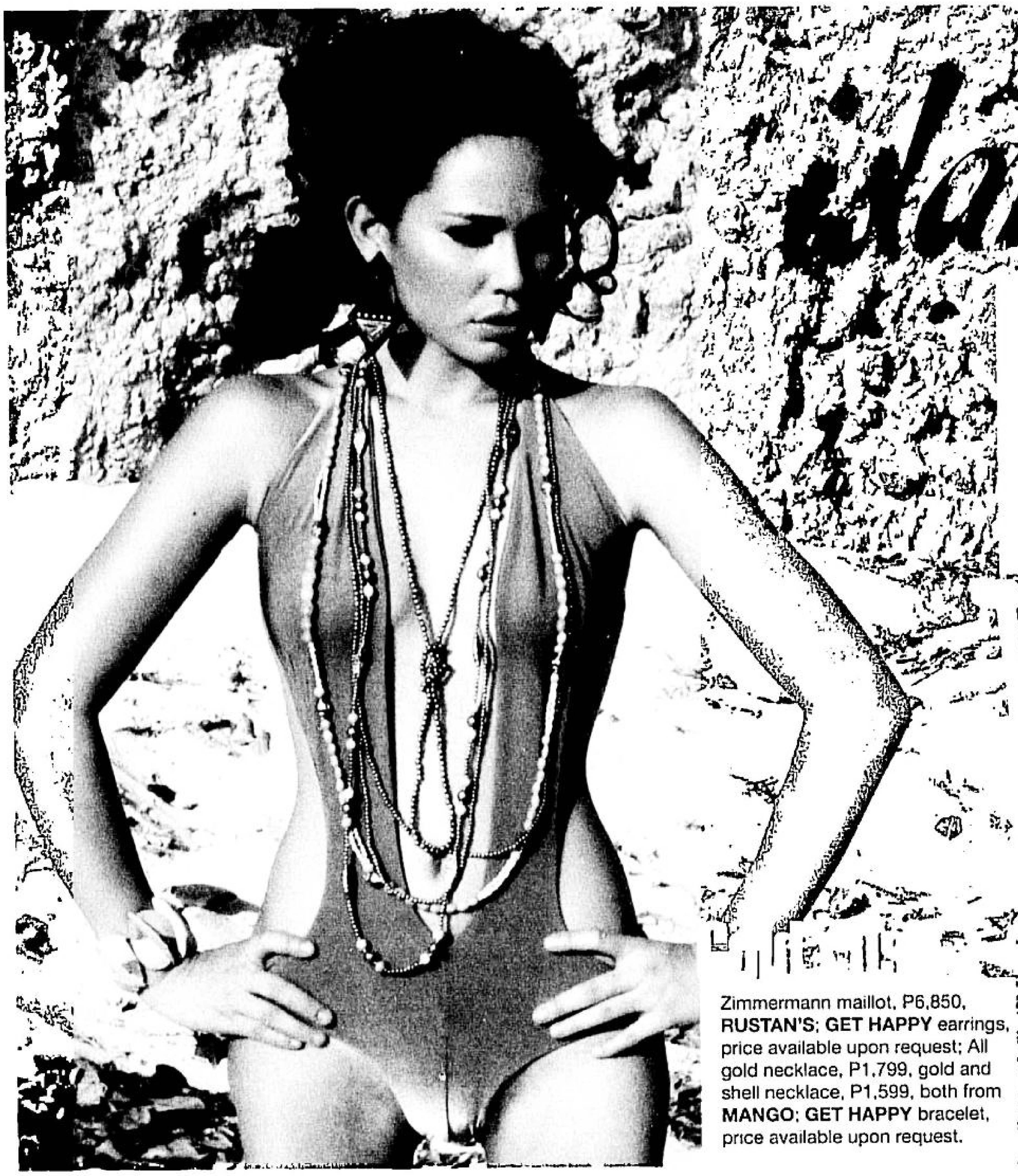
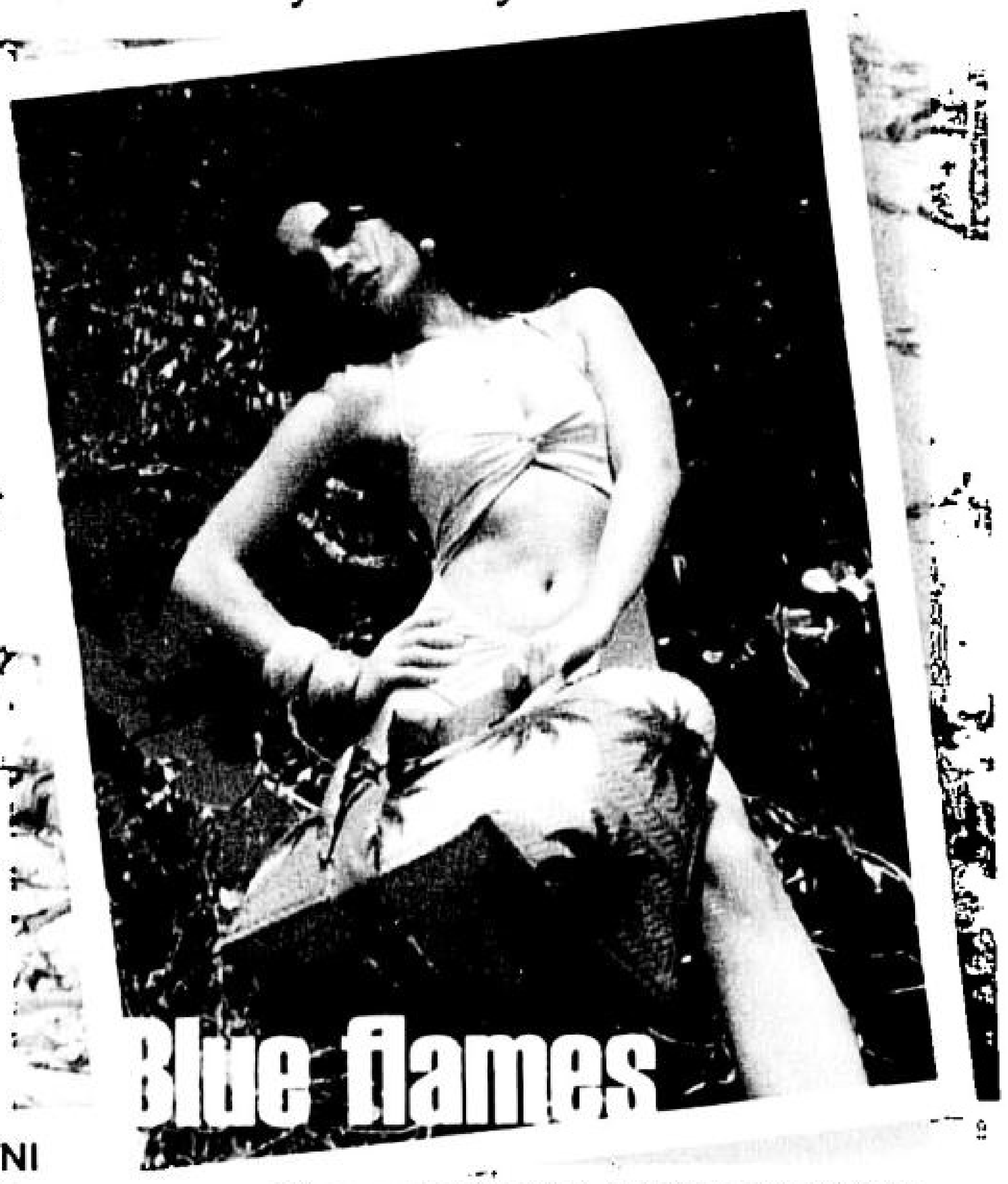
# island fever

Set shores on fire with sultry maillots in fervent colors. Pass up the bikini and slip into a luscious one-piece guaranteed to heat things up. Laze about on the beach and get the men deliciously steamy.



Zimmermann maillot, P6,850, **RUSTAN'S; GET HAPPY** earrings, price available upon request; All gold necklace, P1,799, gold and shell necklace, P1,599, both from **MANGO; GET HAPPY** bracelet, price available upon request.



**Blue flames**

Zimmermann maillot, P4,950, **RUSTAN'S**; CMG earrings, P299; **MANGO** bangles, P999 each; **GET HAPPY** ring, price available upon request; **KULTURA** bag, P799.75.

Photography **McSANDRO RIETA** • Styling **JENNI EPPERSON** • Hair and Makeup **LEO POSADAS** of Essensuals by Toni & Guy • Model **CELINE LE NEINDRE** of Admate • Assistant Photographer **ARNOLD JUMPAY** • Shot on location at **Nami Private Villas, Boracay** • Special thanks to **Lex Ledesma** and **Tina Tinio**

**Sun burst**

**SM DEPARTMENT STORE** maillot, P449.75; **CMG** earrings, P399; **GET HAPPY** necklace, price available upon request.

**Hot spot**

**SM DEPARTMENT STORE** maillot, P449.75; Earrings, P299, bangles, P299 each, all from **CMG**.

**Island** [illegible]

**LAE** maillot, P1,845; Earrings and necklace, prices available upon request, all from **GET HAPPY**.

# *Kate Torralba*

## *Designer*

Photography **DIX** • Model **KATRINA CRUZ**

**Humble beginnings...**

I was a kikay college freshman in UP Cebu when I realized I couldn't shop for new clothes all the time. With just three people, I started my own clothes-making operation in one of the vacant apartments in our family compound. After a few years, my staff grew and an unexpected clientele developed -- for uniforms, costumes, party outfits and everything else (I even made drapes at some point)! I never really treated it as a formal business. It was just something I enjoyed doing.

I left Cebu for a job with Sen. Loren Legarda. To augment my income, I designed top-and-handbag sets and sold them to officemates and friends. After a year, I realized I wasn't cut out for politics, so I decided to go to graduate school. I also devoted more time designing and selling clothes. I even had clothes in the trunk of my car!

My lucky break came when Tim Yap noticed my outfit at the Preview New Society Ball in 2002. He introduced me to Tessa Prieto-Valdes who requested to see my samples. A week later, I visited her and she bought practically everything in my duffel bag!

Soon after, magazine editors graciously started featuring my stuff. My next break came from Virgie Ramos of Gift Gate who was kind enough to include me in her Young Entrepreneurs Society Bazaar. This was where I met a lot of my good clients.

**Signature style...**

I have a penchant for color and prints. My style is quirky, but always feminine and well-coordinated. People recognize my stuff when they see the matching bag! I get my inspiration from beautiful prints, shoes, accessories, music, art, food, interesting people and places, even everyday things... kahit ano!

**Style icons...**

A lot, but my top four are Moss, Blanchett, Hudson and Spade.

**Where to find me...**

**Ishq** Boutique, Astoria Plaza, Escriva Drive, Ortigas; **Firma** Manila, J.Nakpil, Malate; **I Love You** at Cafe Saguijo, 7612 Guijo St., Makati; Bags at **Urban Spa** Shangri-La Plaza Mall and **B Shop**, Robinsons Galleria. For custom-made clothing, you can e-mail me at kt_fashionista@yahoo.com.

**Price range...**

P1,500 and up per top /bag set

---

store feature

YOUNG
TALENTED
FILIPINA

BA
YO

# *Bright Whites*

Chase those summer blues away by slipping into something white and bright. **BAYO** gives a sneak peek of its summer 2005 collection.

Look cool as milk in casual silhouettes. Lounge in sequined tees, ruffled skirts and little white dresses. Have fun in the sun in classic swimsuits, candy-colored flip-flops and crocheted ponchos. It's all about being a girl!

Watch out for the fresh, new faces of BAYO -- young, talented and proud to be Pinays **Monica Llamas** and **Hazel Tañedo**. They're beautiful, stylish and successful women who have come into their own.

# In Full Bloom

Bask in a sophisticated summer of love. Bronzed skin and sun-kissed cheeks glow with tints of brown and gold. Gilded hues swept over eyes or glossed on lips unleash piquant passions and inspire a radiant, exotic glow.

[illegible]
[illegible]ANDRO RIETA
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] ESCALER
[illegible]
[illegible]NOLD JUMPAY

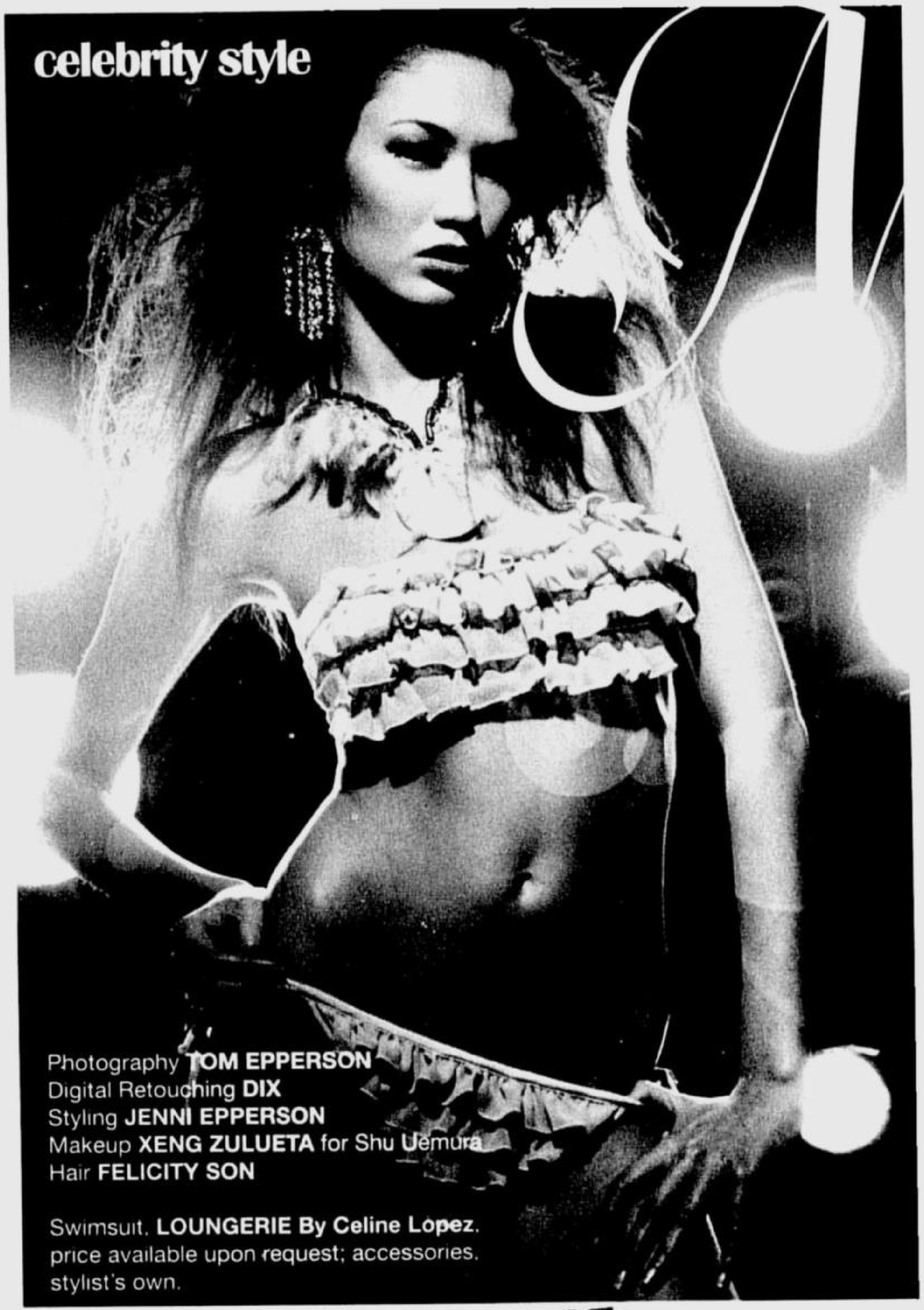
INTENSE
BOSS
HUGO BOSS
RALPH
COOL
RALPH LAUREN
212SEXY

# Cool Waters

**Spritz on refreshing scents made to heat up tropical passions.**

Surf goddess
**RALPH COOL BY RALPH LAUREN** 50ml, P2,850.
Femme Fatale
**212SEXY BY CAROLINA HERRERA** 30ml, P2,500.
Temptress
**HUGO BOSS, BOSS INTENSE SHIMMER EDITION** 50ml, P2,750.

*All available at **RUSTAN'S**



Photography **TOM EPPERSON**
Digital Retouching **DIX**
Styling **JENNI EPPERSON**
Makeup **XENG ZULUETA** for Shu Uemura
Hair **FELICITY SON**

Swimsuit, **LOUNGERIE By Celine Lopez**, price available upon request; accessories, stylist's own.

# Next Attraction

Uber-Model. Sex Symbol. Party Girl. Ornusa Cadness slips on a short skirt and shows off her long legs on the JUST SHOP red carpet.

**Dress to kill, to impress, or to be clothed?**
To impress myself and my man.
**Shop like a starlet on a budget or an A-lister with none?**
I buy what I want and when something moves me.
**Cold cash or plastic?**
Cold cash...always.
**Favorite wardrobe piece?**
I don't have favorites...I am always changing my mind.
**5 favorite clothing brands?**
It's summer and they're all swimsuits: **Minx, Billabong, Quicksilver, Voodoo Dolls,** and **Lua.**
**Top 3 show-stopping summer numbers?**
A tan, lots of skin and a custom-made Minx bikini...they're the best.
**How many swimsuits do you own?**
Nine and counting...
**Swimsuit shopping philosophy?**
String bikinis look good on any figure.
**Belly baring midriff or butt-hugging boy shorts?**
Butt-hugging boy shorts...so I can show off my legs.
**Bombshell maillot or babe in bikini?**
Bikini...I like to bare it all! Hahaha!
**The trusty old sarong or the fancy new tunic?**
Forget both!
**Flaunt it if...**
You have it.
**Conceal it if ...**
Nah. Flaunt it anyway!

HOT ON OUR RADAR!

# Morocco Express

Photography **DIX**

Step into jeweled thongs by MATTHEWS and be transported in boho paradise – the ultimate fashion destination this summer!

Matthews shoes, P1,999, **CMG**

## directory

**ADMATE** 753-1698. **DIX** 0917-5219887. **EDDIE BOY ESCUDERO** 0917-8932742. **ESSENSUALS BY TONI & GUY** 6750 Retail Arcade 6750 Ayala Ave., Makati 812-8559. **FELICITY SON** 0916-2801295. **GET HAPPY** Available at Firma, House of Laurel, Ishq, Rustan's. **KATE TORRALBA** 0917-6221229. **LOUNGERIE By Celine Lopez** 7th Floor Regina Bldg., Trasierra cor. Aguirre St., Legaspi Vill., Makati. **McSANDRO RIETA** 0917-8136990. **NAMI PRIVATE VILLAS BORACAY** Diniwid Beach, Boracay Island Malay, Aklan (036)288-6753 to 55; Unit 1202 Sage House Bldg., 110 V.A. Rufino St., Legaspi Vill., Makati 812-1484; www.namiboracay.com. **RINA ALBERT** katharine_albert@hotmail.com. **TOM EPPERSON** 890-3621.

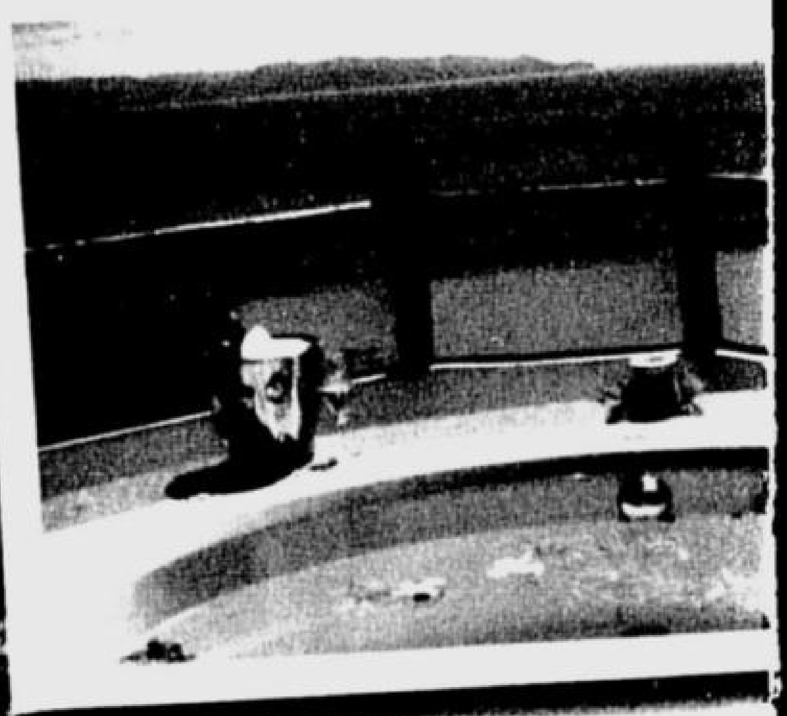
**AXXEZZ** 2nd floor Glorietta 2 Ayala Center. **BAYO** Glorietta 1 Ayala Center; 2nd level Power Plant Mall Rockwell Center. **BETTER THAN BARE** Greenbelt Shopping Plaza Greenbelt 1 Ayala Center; BSA Mansion, 108 Benavidez St., Legaspi Vill., Makati 8166892. **CMG** 2nd level Glorietta 4 Ayala Center; Power Plant Mall Rockwell Center; Shangri-La Plaza Mall. **FIRMA** Greenbelt 3 Ayala Center. **FREEWAY** Glorietta 1 Ayala Center; 2nd level Robinson's Galleria. **FOC** 2nd floor Activity Center Market! Market! **HOUSE OF LAUREL** 6013 Villena St., Brgy. Poblacion, Makati. **ISHQ** Astoria Plaza, Escriva Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig. **JALILAH JEWELRY** Greenhills Shopping Center. **KATE SPADE** Greenblet 3 Ayala Center. **KULTURA** 3rd floor SM Department Store Makati. **LAE** Greenbelt Shopping Plaza Greenbelt 1 Ayala Center. **LAUNDRY** Rustan's Makati. **MANGO** Glorietta 3 Ayala Center; Power Plant Mall Rockwell Center. **RUSTAN'S** Alabang; Makati; Shangri-La Plaza Mall. **SHU UEMURA** Available at Rustan's. **SM DEPARTMENT STORE** Makati; Mega Mall; South Mall. **TOPSHOP** Glorietta 2 Ayala Center; 2nd level Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

# Woo

[illegible] bangles – stacks of them – are a natural choice for the boho look. Pick from carved or hand-painted designs in sundry colors. It's an arm[illegible] fun.

Photography and St[illegible]
**JENNI EPPER[illegible]**

[illegible] blue and green bracelet, P299; **MANGO** aqua bangle, P1,299 (pair not shown); **[illegible] JEWELRY** brown bangle, about [illegible]50; **AXXEZZ** green bracelet, [illegible]; **[illegible]** brown bangle, P[illegible]9.75; **AXXEZZ** yellow bangle, P399.7[illegible]; **[illegible]** green bangle, P299; **MANGO** red [illegible]les, [illegible],299 (sold as set).



**DOUBLE the bubbly.** Champagne and jacuzzi!

# Nami! Nami! N

I chanted the words in my head like a mantra as the speedboat reached Diniwid beach in sunny Bora. The familiar clustered suites of Nami propped by hills were a welcome sight. Walking towards shore with my **Pucci** beach bag on one hand and my wedge **Havaianas** in the other, I couldn't help but think: Why haven't I been spending my weekends in this paradise?

Well, I'm here now and that's all that matters. You see, every year I hie off, take time out from friends and parties and put on hold my motherly and wifely duties without guilt. I find it's good for the soul. It gives me time to rekindle my spirit, find solace (Oprah, is that you?) and just be silly.

I don't enjoy roughing it up when it comes to vacations. I believe in living it up! I want ambience, good food and impeccable service. I don't want to spend my vacation complaining why they take so long to serve food (when I'm famished), why my eggs are raw (yuck!), why they don't have Knorr seasoning (or buy if someone asks for it), and worse, why my sheets are damp and stinky. I feel that to de-stress and de-tox, pampered living is the only way to go.

For years now, I have had the pleasure of staying in this beautiful seaside getaway, thanks to my friend **Lex Ledesma**, owner of Nami and his hostess-with-the-mostest girlfriend **Tina Tinio**, who organized my stay although she was in New York. She sent me text messages asking every detail, making sure I arrived in one piece—what a girl!

When I need some "alone time," there's only one place I'd like to be—my home away from home, Nami.

### Butlers are a different breed

Rewind. When I arrived in Caticlan with my colorful 3-piece **Benetton** luggage in tow (I'm staying for a week; thou shalt not judge me by the number of my luggage), I wasn't sure how I'd lug them around. I mean, they looked so cute together. But it's a pain to juggle all three of them without looking like an overdressed *kargador*.

Lo and behold, as I walked out of the airport, waiting for me -- like a light at the end of the tunnel -- was **Kitz**, my Nami butler!

You read right. They provided me with my own butler. Yay! He organized my *maleta*, escorted me to the tourist bus and stayed with me until I got to my room, without being annoying and speaking only when he felt it was necessary.

He was like a bodyguard—not!

Don't get me wrong. I know bodyguards are just doing their jobs, but I feel that sometimes, they prevent you from being with people, discourage you from having fun and most of them wear black.

Butlers are a different breed altogether. They allow you to smooze with people, encourage you to have fun and they wear pristine white shirts and white sexy sarongs (well, Kitz did).

**Irene Maravilla**, Nami's resident manager, told me that not only do they train their butlers to cater to the guests' whims, they also try to match the personality of the guest with his/her butler. Talk about personalized service. Mine was a match made in heaven. Kitz is my buddy butler forever!

### Bocelli for breakfast

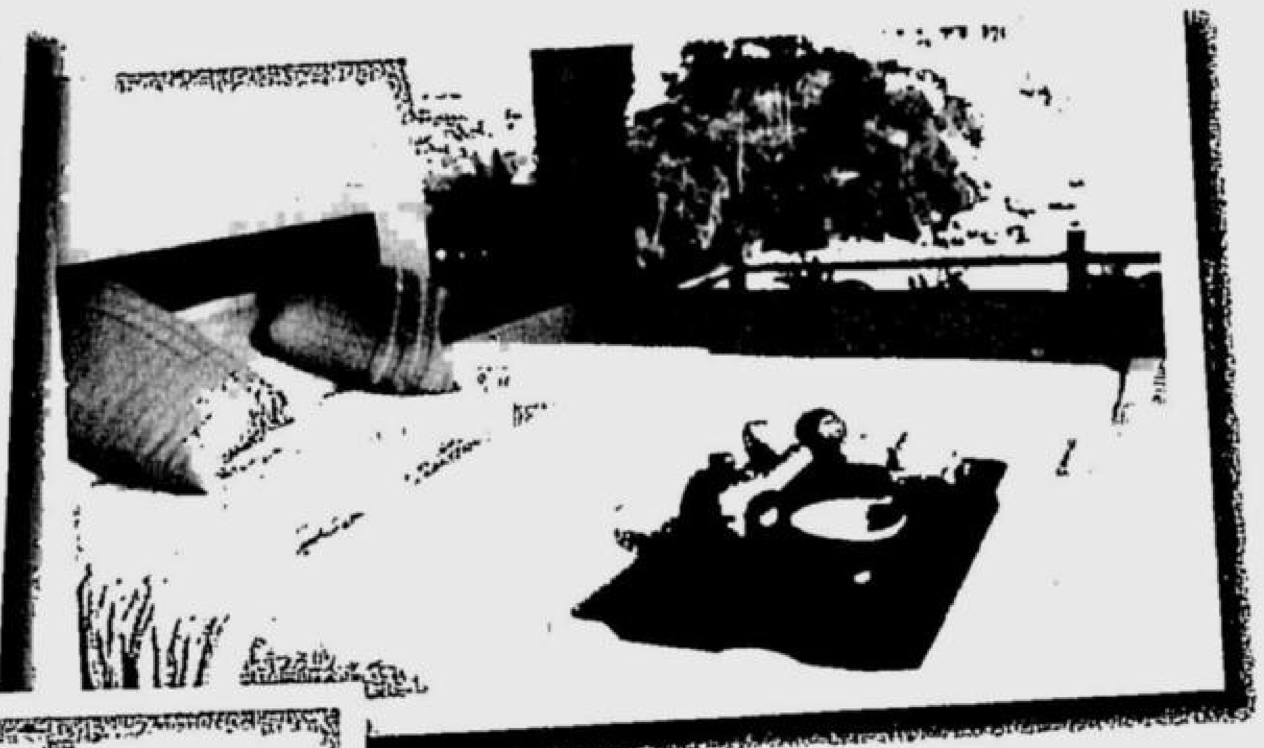
There are two things that determine my mood the following day -- a good night's sleep—we're talking 8 hours of deep sleep here -- and the breakfast of champions. For me it's *tapsilog* with Knorr seasoning which I gladly devoured while listening to Bocelli and gazing at the view -- it was to die for!

Just writing about the food at Nami makes me giddy: Champagne brunch, my favorite gambas, sea bass with salsa, fettuccini with tenderloin tips, grilled prawns with lemon butter sauce, mushroom tarts and salpicao, which unfortunately, I missed this trip as the "meat guy" was a no-show during my stay. Forget caviar dreams, it's salpicao for this carnivore.

### Cheers, Chin Chin, Kampai!

After two days of serenity and solitude, I started missing my friends. It didn't help that at the next table was a group of 10 friends -- mostly Europeans and Koreans -- who ordered Nami's famous Champagne breakfast. The clinking flutes and shouts of "Cheers" made me want to join the party. Truth is, I missed my friends but I also wanted to have fun by my lonesome. So Kitz organized a bubbly in my Jacuzzi and after a glass or two, I was happy.

**THE hills are alive** with the sound of "Nami! Nami! Nami"!



**B & B**. Bed and breakfast never looked this good.

# Nami!

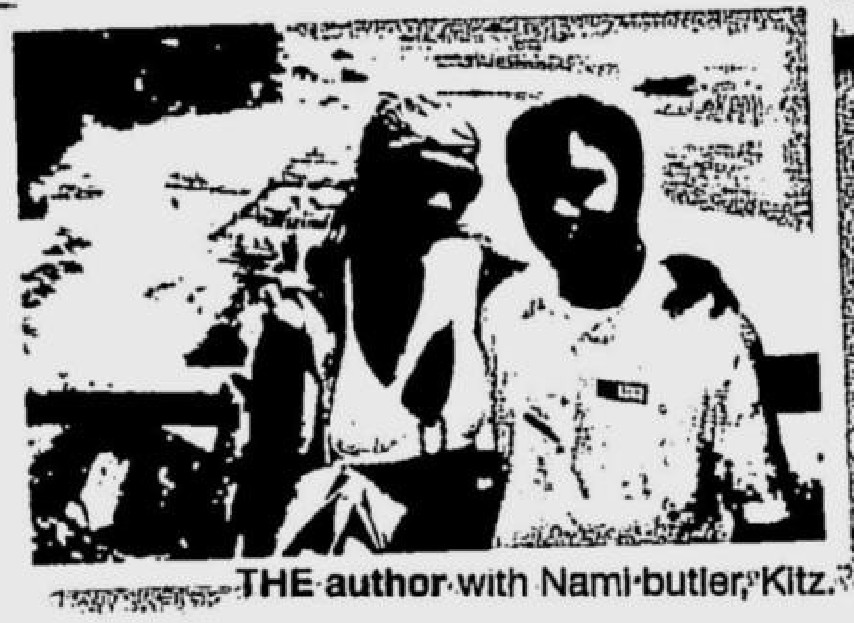
### Text and photos by JENNI EPPERSON

Afraid of accidentally drowning in the tub by having too much to drink, I decided to get out while I still can and made an appointment for a Swedish massage. The scent of coconut oil and the long strokes of Bheng, my masseuse, were an afternoon delight. I had my treat in an outdoor gazebo covered by white gauze-like material gently blown by the wind. I looked at the sea with half-closed eyes while listening to music. I seriously considered being a recluse for a few more days.

## Saying goodbye

I was on the last leg of my vacation and time seemed to have passed so quickly. I needed to get back to the city because of commitments, plus, I was really missing my hubby's hugs, my daughter's laughter and my friends.

Booking my return flight was a challenge. When I learned I was a chance passenger, I didn't mind not leaving. I sent a text message to one of my best friends **Tim Yap**, saying I found it hard to leave. He encouraged me to stay one more day: "Savor your alone time. Everything can wait."



**THE author with Nami butler, Kitz.**

**NAMI owner, Lex Ledesma** and hostess-with-the-mostest, girlfriend **Tina Tinio**

**MANAMI** gift shop.

But I was packed and I was psyched to see my loved ones, my friends, and of course Tim. There was no way I could pack twice. Besides, my lime with turquoise and red luggage looked so perfect and ready to rock 'n' roll. For one last time, I looked out at the sea from my fabulous room, took a whiff of the salty air and felt the warm sun on my face.

I realized why I wanted to stay, it's not because I wanted to be alone but because I am surrounded by beauty, nature and Nami's magic! Haay...

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*For reservations, contact* ***NAMI PRIVATE VILLAS BORACAY*** *Diniwid Beach, Boracay Island Malay, Aklan (036)288-6753 to 55; Unit 1202 Sage House Bldg., 110 V.A. Rufino St., Legaspi Vill., Makati 812-1484; www.namiboracay.com.*

## ka-NAMI-t!

**In Ilonggo, it means, "it's delicious!" Seafood sensations, Champagne brunches and other delectable treats make Nami the ultimate seaside paradise!**

Food shots **EDDIE BOY ESCUDERO**

Grilled prawns with lemon butter sauce.

Pan fried sea bass with tomato basil salsa and mashed potatoes.

Potato crusted salmon with beurre blanc or pineapple bourbon sauce.

Heavy brunch platter of waffles, veal chipolata, langonisa, beef tapa, egg, toast bread and Champagne.

My summer gear

stroll
jump
& tan

summer

at the bags, luggage,
men's, ladies' & teens' shoes
men's & ladies' accessories
departments

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